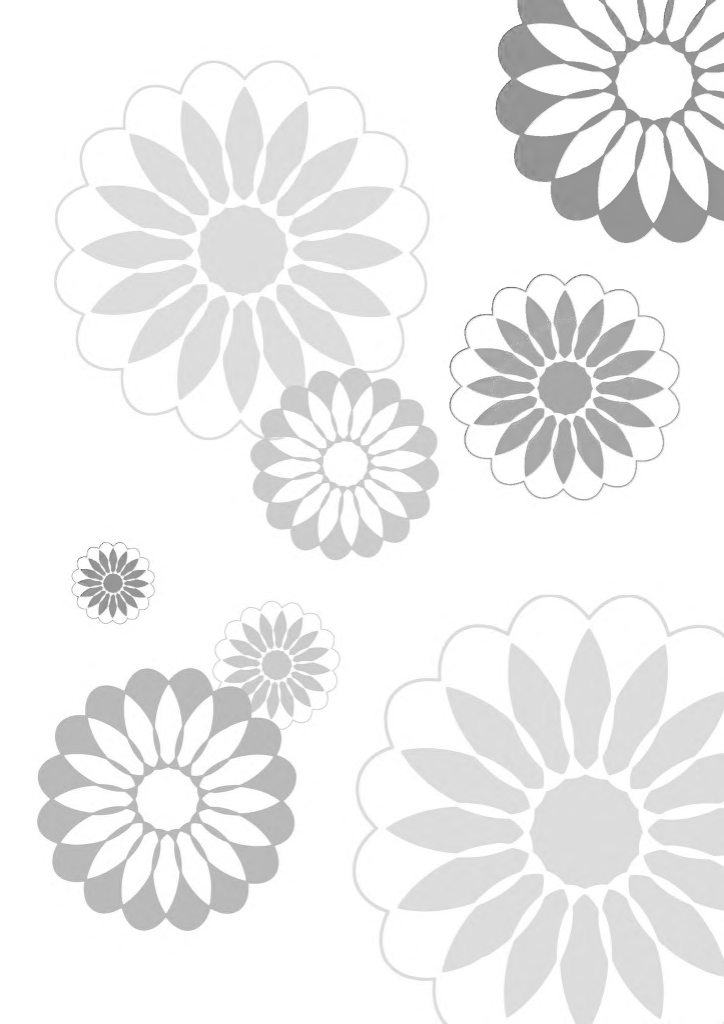
Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ

9

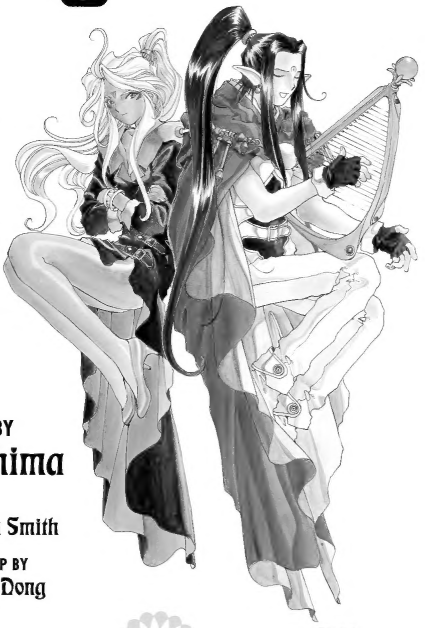
藤島康介

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 9



STORY AND ART BY
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TRANSLATION BY
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LETTERING AND TOUCH-UP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA™

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CHAPTER 53

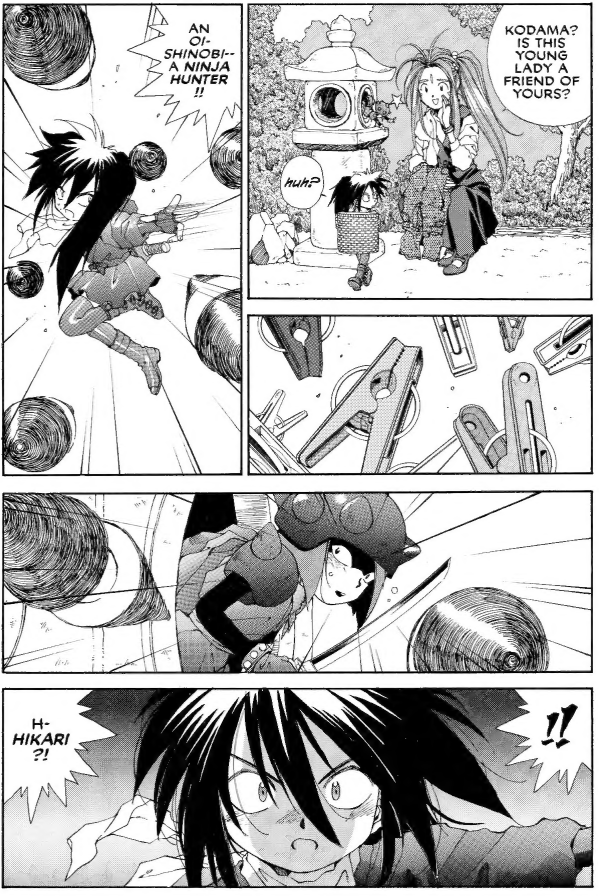
Law of the Ninja

DEATH TO THE RENE-GADE!
TO THE TRAITOR... DEATH!
THERE-FORE... DEATH TO KODAMA, MISTRESS OF ILLUSIONS... FUGITIVE NINJA!
DEATH TO THE LAW-BREAK-ER!
KODAMA-SAN...?
HM?
THIS CHILL I FEEL IN MY SOUL... CAN IT BE...?
!!
DEATH!

I JUST FELT A LITTLE CHILL...
UH... NO! NOT AT ALL!
IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU...?
BUT THAT'S TERRIBLE!
MAYBE WE SHOULD GET SOME MEDICINE FROM URD...
ACK! NO! NO!
REALLY? WELL... OKAY.
I MEAN-- I ALWAYS CARRY MY OWN!
...BUT THERE'S STILL NO WAY I'M GONNA TAKE ANYTHING URD MADE...
MY NINJA TRAINING MAKES ME IMMUNE TO THE DEADLIEST POISONS...

LET'S GO INSIDE AND GET YOU SOME NICE, HOT TEA RIGHT NOW.
BUT DO BE CAREFUL, KODAMA. IT'S HARD TO GET RID OF A COLD AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.
AH, TO THINK MERE WORDS COULD BE SO...SO *WARMING*...
SUCH TENDER-NESS... OVER-FLOWING MY HEART...
...
YOU ALWAYS *WERE* THE SENTIMENTAL ONE, KODAMA DEAR.
I CAN SENSE YOU, EVEN FROM OVER HERE.
"❤❤," IS IT?

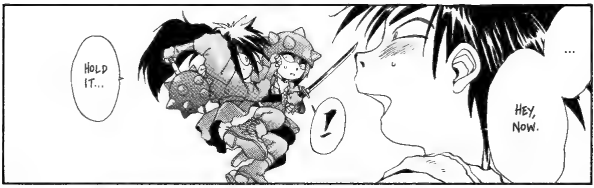
DO YOU FORGET AS WELL THE BLOOD OATH YOU TOOK WHEN YOU BECAME ONE...?
AND NOW LOOK AT YOU... TRYING TO FORGET YOUR NINJA WAYS.
THE LAW OF THE NINJA PERMITS NO ESCAPE!
...WE WILL ELIMINATE YOU.
UNLESS YOU CAN ELIMINATE US...
AND WHO ARE YOU?
!!
GOOD-NESS ...!
H-HOW COULD THIS SIMPLE CREATURE DETECT A TRUE NINJA?!
I-IMPOS-SIBLE! SHE SNUCK UP WITHOUT WARN-ING!


AN OI-SHINOBI-- A NINJA HUNTER !!
KODAMA? IS THIS YOUNG LADY A FRIEND OF YOURS?
huh?
H-HIKARI ?!
!!

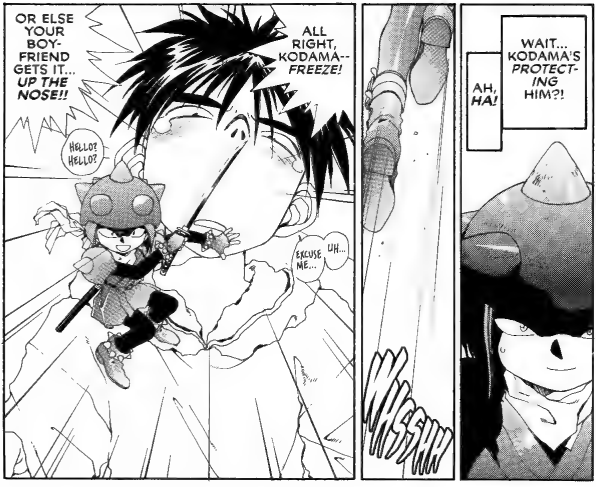
ET TU, HIKARI ?!
...PERHAPS THEY WEREN'T FRIENDS, AFTER ALL.
THE ONE THEY CALL LIGHTNING HIKARI...
SHE TOO IS A NINJA MASTER--CREATED AT THE SAME TIME AS I...

OUR FRIENDSHIP TRANSCENDED THE BOUNDS OF SUB-SPECIES... TRANSCENDED FRIENDSHIP ITSELF...
BEFORE THE MASTER REMADE US, I WAS A NORWAY RAT (*Rattus norvegicus*) AND SHE WAS A ROOF RAT (*Rattus rattus*)...
OH, NO... I INSIST THAT YOU EAT ONE TOO, MY SWEET HIKARI.
HERE, KODAMA DEAR- YOU HAVE BOTH BACK LEGS.
AHH...HOW OFTEN WE USED TO SHARE A JUICY COCKROACH FOR DINNER...
IF YOU DESIRE TO SURVIVE... YOU MUST SLAY WITHOUT PITY *ANY* WHO WOULD OPPOSE YOU!
YET... HOW CRUEL IS THE *LAW OF THE NINJA!*
ANY!
BUT...
...CAN'T MATCH *MY* SPEED!
HEH HEH... I GUESS EVEN KODAMA...

KENICHI'S SHOP
HYAA!
WHAM
GRR..
RR..
SKRAK
...WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT HER INSANE STRENGTH ?!?
WHUD
KWHANG
BE QUIET !!
ARGH!
SHUT UP!!

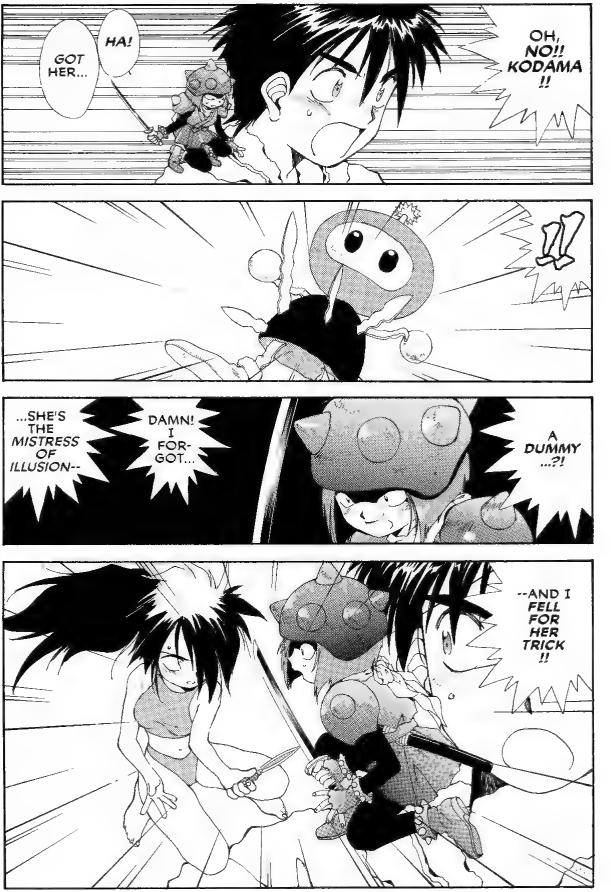

HOLD IT...
!
...
HEY, NOW.

YOU ALMOST GOT ME INTO *TROUBLE!*
STAY *OUT* OF THIS FIGHT, KEIICHI! IT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN!
DAMN IT!


OR ELSE YOUR BOY-FRIEND GETS IT... *UP THE NOSE!!*
ALL RIGHT, KODAMA-- *FREEZE!*
HELLO? HELLO?
EXCUSE ME...
UH...
WASSHI
AH, *HA!*
WAIT... KODAMA'S *PROTECT-ING* HIM?!

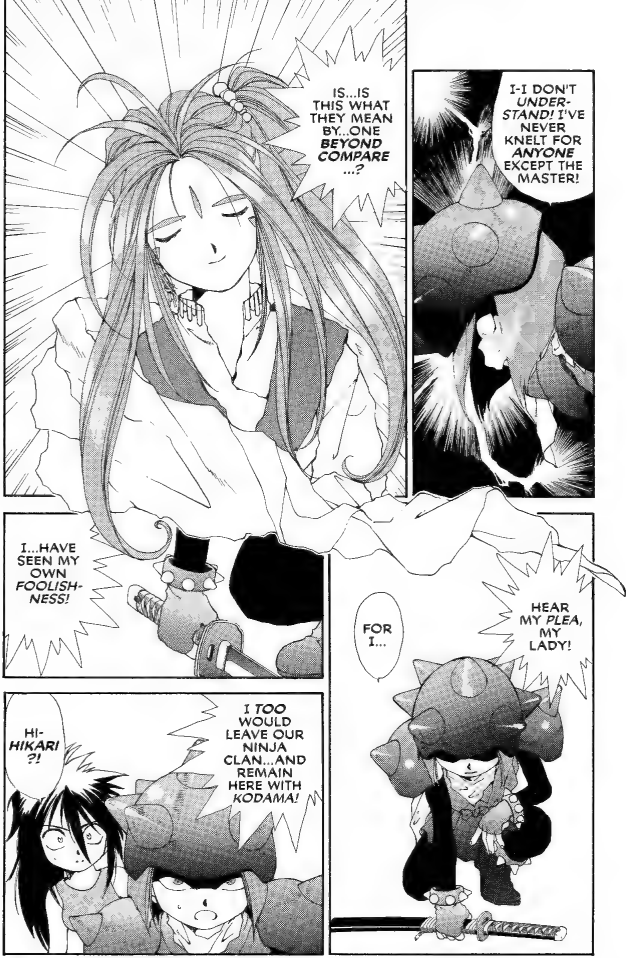
...!!
YOU WANT TO CLEAN OUT HIS BOOGERS, GO AHEAD.
...MY LOYALTY IS TO THE *LADY BELL-DANDY.*
SORRY, HIKARI...
OKAY... NOW *DROP YOUR WEAPONS...*
...BUT IF I LET YOU DO THAT... I SUSPECT LADY BELLDANDY WOULD BE VERY SADDENED.
OR... THAT'S WHAT I'D *LIKE* TO SAY...
VERY WELL, THEN.
CHIK
klik
clang!

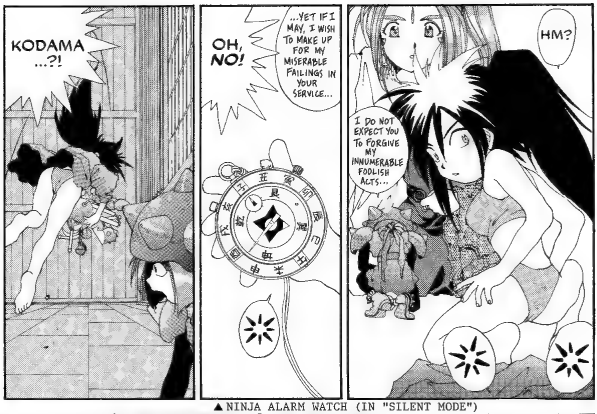
ALL YOUR ARMOR, TOO...
YES, THAT'S IT... GOOD GIRL.
AND NEXT...
shlp
THERE-- SATIS-FIED?
WHERE'D SHE PUT THOSE THINGS?
huh?
WHOA...
...NOW YOU'RE READY!
THOK
THOK
THOK


OH, NO!! KODAMA !!
HA! GOT HER...
!!
A DUMMY ...?!
DAMN! I FOR-GOT...
...SHE'S THE MISTRESS OF ILLUSION--
--AND I FELL FOR HER TRICK !!

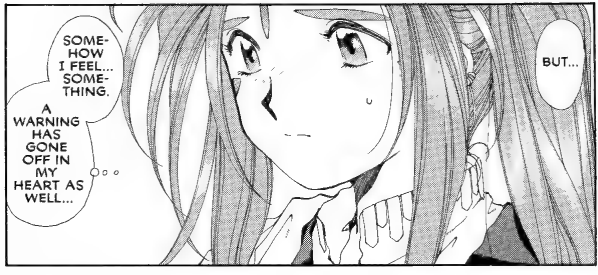
STOP THAT THIS INSTANT!
THAT'S IT-- I'M DONE FOR!
gleam
...THE NEEDLE IN A HAY-STACK!
KODA-MA CALLS IT...
HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN HER FAMED DECEPTION... SURRENDER A PILE OF WEAPONS... TO KEEP ONLY THE ONE YOU NEED!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU...?!
...!
AH?!
LIFE IS SACRED!
REMEM-BER, KODAMA ?!

INCLUDING LIFE THAT IS NOT YOUR OWN.
MM ...?
YES, MY LADY!
?
AH?
HUH?


IS...IS THIS WHAT THEY MEAN BY...ONE *BEYOND COMPARE* ...?
I-I DON'T *UNDER-STAND!* I'VE NEVER KNELT FOR *ANYONE* EXCEPT THE MASTER!
I...HAVE SEEN MY OWN *FOOLISH-NESS!*
FOR I...
HEAR MY *PLEA*, MY LADY!
HI-*HIKARI* ?!
I *TOO* WOULD LEAVE OUR NINJA CLAN...AND REMAIN HERE WITH *KODAMA!*

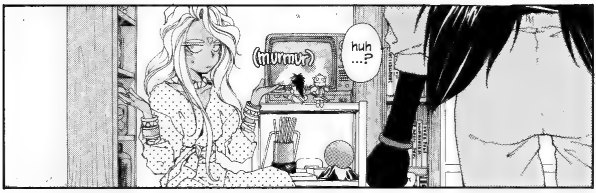

KODAMA ...?!
OH, NO!
...YET IF I MAY, I WISH TO MAKE UP FOR MY MISERABLE FAILINGS IN YOUR SERVICE...
HM?
I DO NOT EXPECT YOU TO FORGIVE MY INNUMERABLE FOOLISH ACTS...

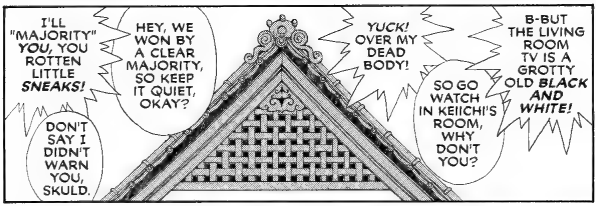
▲NINJA ALARM WATCH (IN "SILENT MODE")

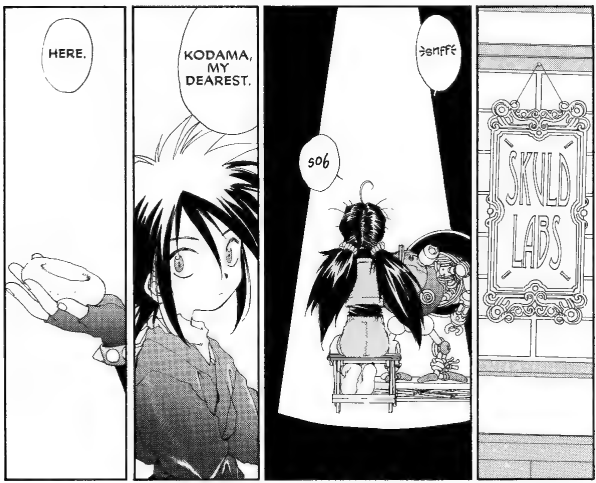


YOU WERE A FOOL TO STAND DOWN-WIND OF ME!
HAH! THE DREADED "SPRING FLOWERS" TECH-NIQUE!
BECAUSE IT'S MY TELE-VISION, THAT'S WHY!
WHY?!
WELL, WE'RE ALREADY WATCHING, SO IT'S OUR RIGHT TO FINISH!
URD'S ROOM
IT'S MY TV SO I HAVE FIRST VIEWING RIGHTS!
...I WATCH "HOLMES"!
AND BECAUSE AT EXACTLY FIVE OH-FIVE...
WHY DON'T WE VOTE? THAT'S FAIR!
HOW UNFORTU-NATE. THIS PROGRAM RUNS UNTIL SIX.
ME ALMOST MISSED THE BEGINNING, TOO.
HEH, HEH... FINE BY ME.
A SIMPLE MAJOR-ITY, HUH?

AYE! AYE! AYE! AYE!
ALL THOSE FOR "NINPU KAMURI GAIDEN"!
AYE!
AYE!
ALL THOSE FOR "HOLMES," SAY "AYE!"
▲ SPLIT SHADOW TECHNIQUE
ｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞ
NOT FOR YOU IS THE NINJA'S WAY.
BUT SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT THIS BAD FEELING...
AH, WELL.
I GET TO WATCH "WORLD INVENTIONS JOURNAL"!
URD! FIVE THIRTY, REMEMBER?!

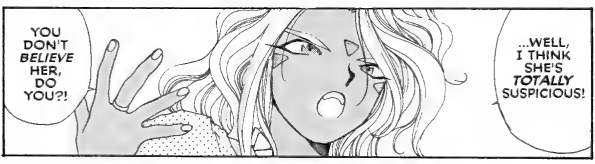

(murmur)
huh ...?

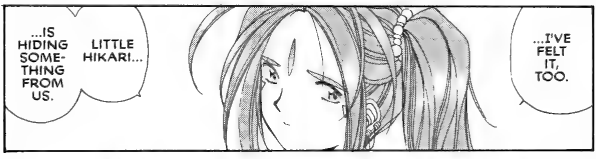

I'LL "MAJORITY" YOU, YOU ROTTEN LITTLE SNEAKS!
DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU, SKULD.
HEY, WE WON BY A CLEAR MAJORITY, SO KEEP IT QUIET, OKAY?
YUCK! OVER MY DEAD BODY!
SO GO WATCH IN KEIICHI'S ROOM, WHY DON'T YOU?
B-BUT THE LIVING ROOM TV IS A GROTTY OLD BLACK AND WHITE!


HERE.
KODAMA, MY DEAREST.
506
SKULD LABS

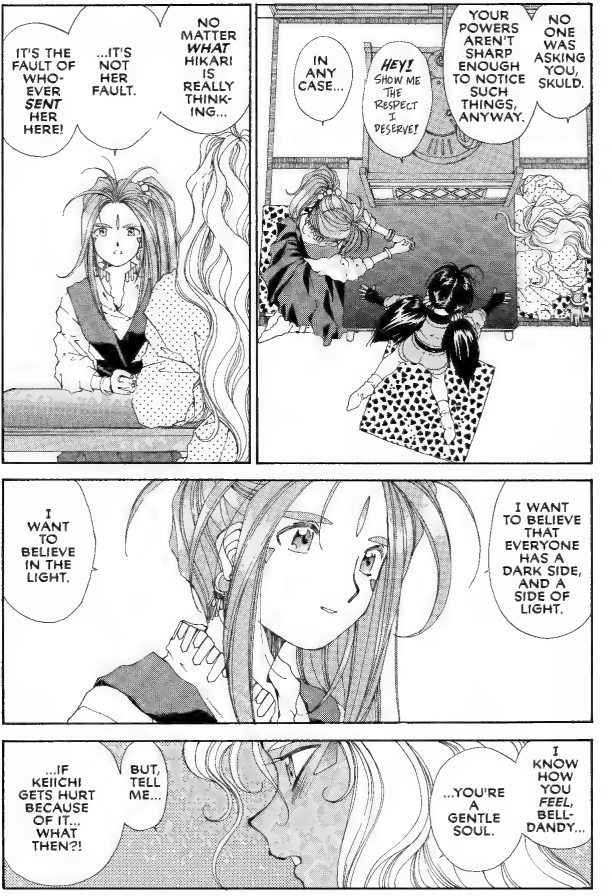
A VERY SPECIAL SWEET...
...FOR MY SWEET FRIEND!
H-HIKARI!
IT'S JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, ISN'T IT...?
Y... YEAH...
SNAP
KODA-MA...
HERE... WE'LL GO HALVSIES, OKAY?

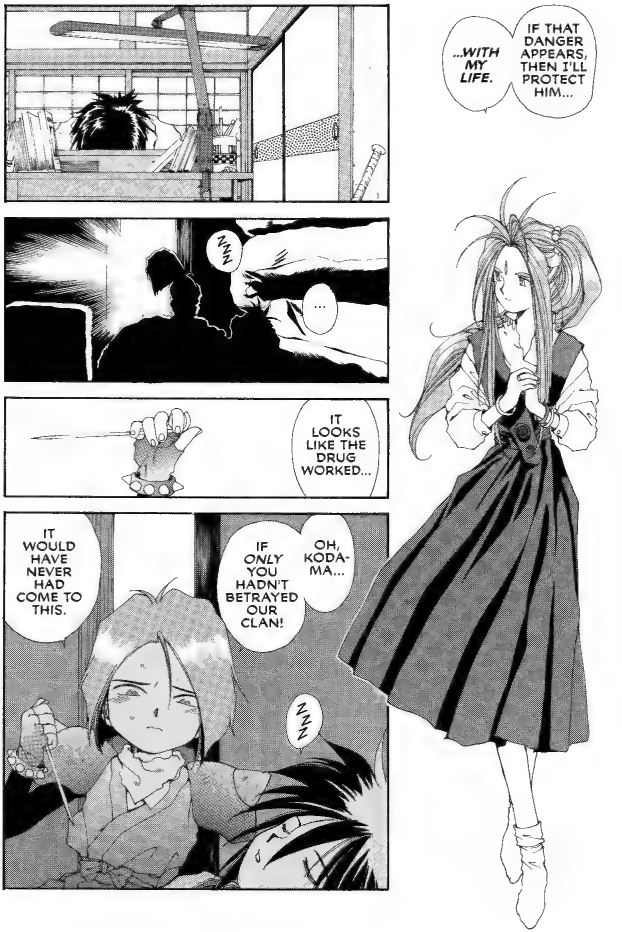
NNNN
KENICHI'S SHOP


YOU DON'T *BELIEVE* HER, DO YOU?!
...WELL, I THINK SHE'S *TOTALLY* SUSPICIOUS!


...IS HIDING SOME-THING FROM US.
LITTLE HIKARI...
...I'VE FELT IT, TOO.

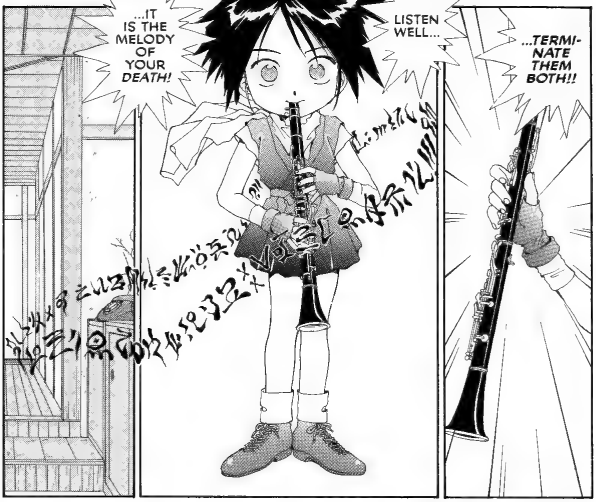
ALL *I* KNOW IS THAT I MISSED *"WORLD INVENTIONS JOURNAL"!*
I DON'T FEEL *ANYTHING* ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!

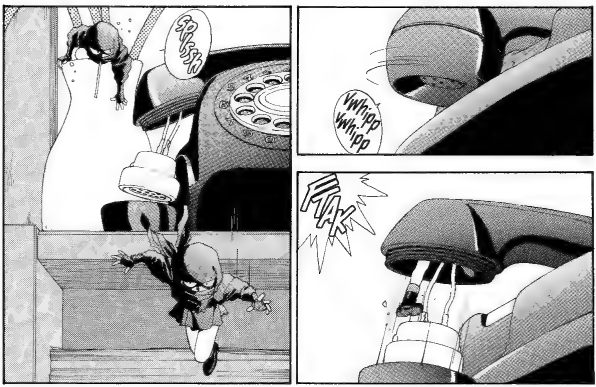

IT'S THE FAULT OF WHO-EVER SENT HER HERE!
...IT'S NOT HER FAULT.
NO MATTER WHAT HIKARI IS REALLY THINK-ING...
IN ANY CASE...
HEY! SHOW ME THE RESPECT I DESERVE!
YOUR POWERS AREN'T SHARP ENOUGH TO NOTICE SUCH THINGS, ANYWAY.
NO ONE WAS ASKING YOU, SKULD.
I WANT TO BELIEVE IN THE LIGHT.
I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE HAS A DARK SIDE, AND A SIDE OF LIGHT.
...IF KEIICHI GETS HURT BECAUSE OF IT... WHAT THEN?!
BUT, TELL ME...
...YOU'RE A GENTLE SOUL.
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BELL-DANDY...


IF THAT DANGER APPEARS, THEN I'LL PROTECT HIM...
...WITH MY LIFE.
...
ZZZ
IT LOOKS LIKE THE DRUG WORKED...
OH, KODA-MA...
IF ONLY YOU HADN'T BETRAYED OUR CLAN!
IT WOULD HAVE NEVER HAD COME TO THIS.
ZZZ

HIKARI, MY SWEET...
BUT I'LL DISOBEY... AND STRIKE SWIFTLY... OLD FRIEND.
THE MASTER SAID... TO MAKE YOUR DEATH LONG AND PAINFUL.
HERE... WE'LL GO HALVSIES, OKAY?
!!
STIFF
...IT WAS BECAUSE I NEVER COULD IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YET I DIDN'T FAIL TO KILL YOU BEFORE... BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO STRONG FOR ME...
A NINJA CAN HAVE NO FEELINGS.
...YOU KNEW ENOUGH TO TAKE AN ANTIDOTE, DIDN'T YOU?
THAT'S MY DEAR KODAMA... YOU'RE THE BEST NINJA OF US ALL.

KODA-MA-CHAN...
...YOU WOULD DO THAT... FOR ME?
...I WAS GOING TO *LET* YOU KILL ME, HIKARI.
BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T... THE MASTER WILL KILL *YOU*... RIGHT?
NO... I'M A ***FAILURE.***
I ABAN-DONED MY OWN CLAN. AND EVEN WORSE...
AH?! CAN IT BE--?!
SO!! IT SEEMS THAT *YOU, TOO,* HAVE FAILED, HIKARI!
YES, IT IS I!-- ***SENRIGAN,*** THE PEEPING TOMBOY!
AND I'VE REPORTED *EVERYTHING I'VE SEEN HERE* TO THE MASTER!
AND HER COMMAND TO *ME* IS...

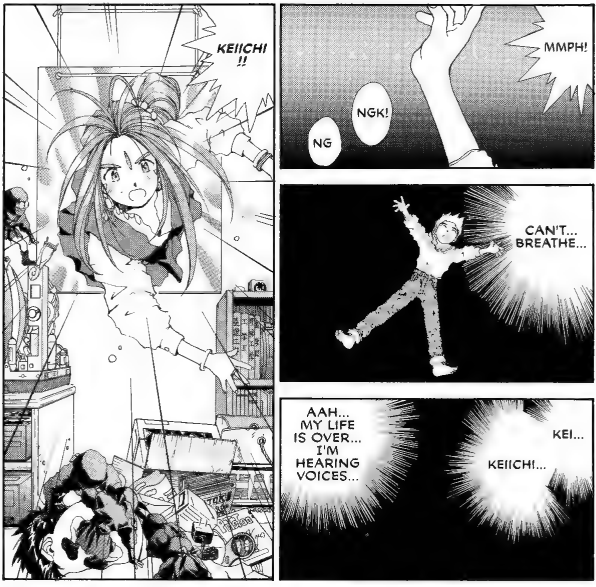

...IT IS THE MELODY OF YOUR DEATH!
LISTEN WELL...
...TERMI-NATE THEM BOTH!!

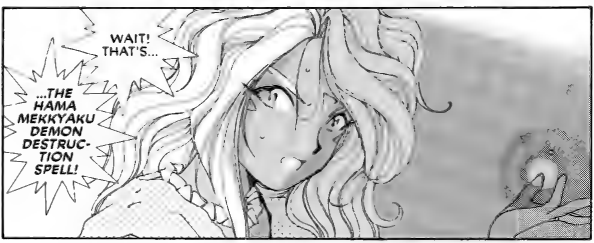

SPLASH
WHIPP WHIPP
FLAP

ALT
NINJA! TINY, DISGUSTING NINJA!!
EEK!

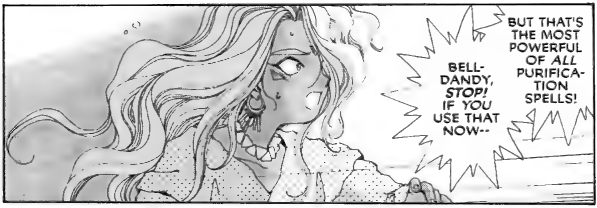
HUCK
NO
WHUDD
STOP!
NO!
YUCK!
EEKK!!

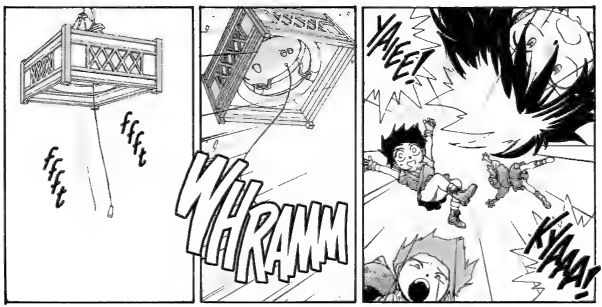
DEPTH BOMB, DESCE--
SEE?! I *TOLD* YOU! IT'S *HIKARI*, THAT LITTLE RAT!
GRMPH!!
!!
NO! IF YOU USE A HIGH-ENERGY SPELL LIKE THAT, KEIICHI WILL BE *KILLED!*
KEIICHI'S SHOP
KEIICHI ...!
KEIICHI! WHERE ARE YOU?!

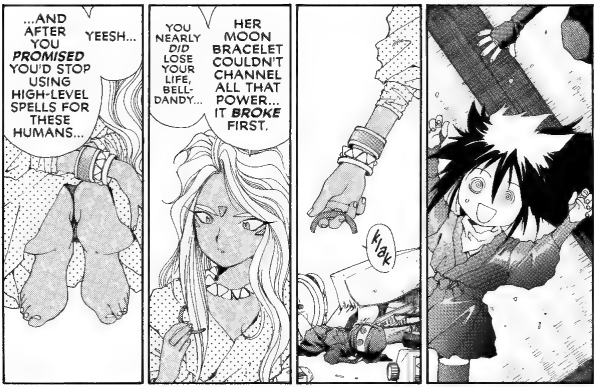

KEIICHI !!
MMPH!
NGK!
NG
CAN'T... BREATHE...
AAH... MY LIFE IS OVER... I'M HEARING VOICES...
KEI...
KEIICHI...
M-MY DEAR KEIICHI...
...I *PROMISED* TO PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE!
I...I CAN'T...



▲URD WAS ATTEMPTING *DENKO GEKISHO*: A LOWER-LEVEL SUMMONING SPELL.

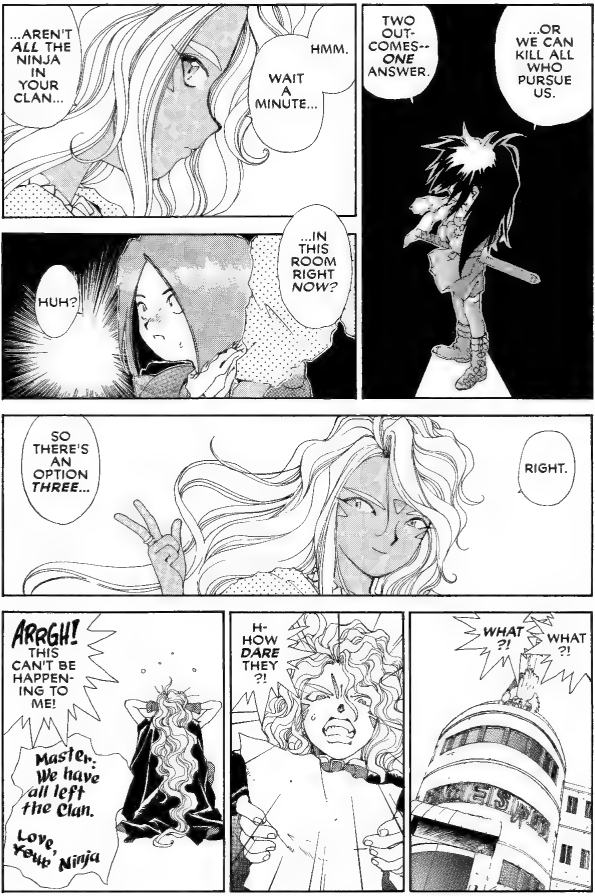

BELL-DANDY, *STOP!* IF YOU USE THAT NOW--
BUT THAT'S THE MOST POWERFUL OF *ALL* PURIFICATION SPELLS!


KRAK
ffff
ffff
WHRAMM
YAIEE!
KYAAA!


...AND AFTER YOU *PROMISED* YOU'D STOP USING HIGH-LEVEL SPELLS FOR THESE HUMANS...
YEESH...
YOU NEARLY *DID* LOSE YOUR LIFE, BELL-DANDY...
HER MOON BRACELET COULDN'T CHANNEL ALL THAT POWER... IT *BROKE* FIRST.
klak

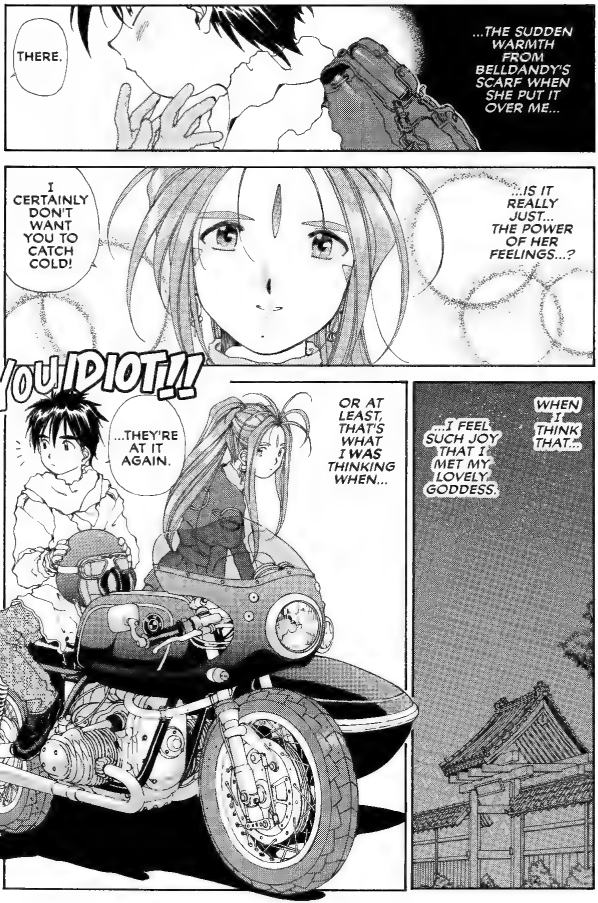
DON'T SLEEP WITH SUCH A *SMILE* ON YOUR FACE, SISTER...
zzzzz
zzzzz

...YEAH, YOU.
UHH...
OOG...
TO ESCAPE THOSE BONDS, EITHER WE CAN LEAVE THIS MORTAL PLANE FOREVER...
WE SHINOBI ARE BOUND ETERNALLY BY THE LAW OF THE NINJA.
...ARE YOU LITTLE IDIOTS PLANNING TO KEEP ON FIGHTING?
NOW, THEN...


...AREN'T ALL THE NINJA IN YOUR CLAN...
HMM.
WAIT A MINUTE...
...IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW?
HUH?
TWO OUT-COMES-- ONE ANSWER.
...OR WE CAN KILL ALL WHO PURSUE US.
SO THERE'S AN OPTION THREE...
RIGHT.
ARRGH! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPEN-ING TO ME!
Master. We have all left the Clan.
Love, Your Ninja
H-HOW DARE THEY ?!
WHAT ?!
WHAT ?!

CHAPTER 54
Together for Never

BOY, IT'S REALLY FREEZING TODAY, HUH?
SHHH


THERE.
...THE SUDDEN WARMTH FROM BELLDANDY'S SCARF WHEN SHE PUT IT OVER ME...
I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT YOU TO CATCH COLD!
...IS IT REALLY JUST... THE POWER OF HER FEELINGS...?
YOU IDIOT!!
...THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN.
OR AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING WHEN...
WHEN I THINK THAT...
...I FEEL SUCH JOY THAT I MET MY LOVELY GODDESS.

I'VE LEARNED A NEW POWER!
BELL-DANDY! GUESS WHAT?!
HI, GUYS!
YEP!
A NEW... POWER?
CALL THAT...
YOU...
ZAK!
...A "NEW POWER" ...?!

BAKA
IT'S JUST THE SAME OLD MISCHIEF!
NOW AS FOR ME, I ACTUALLY DO HAVE A NEW POWER I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU!
YEAH, BUT CHECK OUT HOW GREAT MY LETTERING'S BECOME.
POLAR ELECTRIC SHOCK WAVE--
YOU KNOW, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, BELL AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ALONE TOGETHER FOR AGES.
YEESH...
STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU!
AARGH! IT MUST BE OUR DESTINY...
...TO BE FOREVER SEPARATED!
SPPLSSHH

PFFFT!
NEXT TIME MY BAKA STAMP WILL BE A MITE TOO STRONG!
FRESH AND CLEAN AS A WHISTLE!
yeahhhh? WHO is IT?
RRRRING
...IT'S ...OUR LORD!
I AM THAT I AM.
OR AGAIN... THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING...
青
twitch
WOW, LOOKS YUMMY!
REALLY...? I WONDER WHO IT WAS?
mmch THINK SHE'S ON THE PHONE WITH SOME-BODY.
DUN-NO.
HEY... WHERE'S URD?

KEIICHI...
!!
...MAKE SURE YOU RECORD UGO UGO RUGO FOR ME... OKAY...?!
glomp
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR LICENSE BACK IN NO TIME!
OH, THAT'S WONDERFUL, URD!
SOME TEA...?
THE BIG BOSS HAS ORDERED ME HOME TO TAKE A REMEDIAL COURSE AT GODDESS SCHOOL.
THEY'VE GOT YGGDRASIL BACK ON-LINE.
YOU GOING SOMEWHERE?!
YAIEE! WH-WH-WHAT?! WHY?!

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU WERE IN MY PLACE, HUH? HUH?!
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
AND I'LL BE LOCKED UP IN A STINKY OLD SPELL SIMULATOR FOR HOURS!!
...MAKE ME LISTEN TO THEIR DULL OLD LECTURES!
THEY'LL SHOW ME ALL THESE BORING OLD VIDEOS...
HA! THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ABOUT IT!
SO WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE PUNISH-MENT, TOO, SIS.
HUH?
YOU BETTER WIPE THAT SMILE OFF YOUR FACE, KID.
YOU'RE GOING BACK, TOO.
...NOW HE WANTS YOU TO DO THE PAPERWORK TO GET A PROPER EARTH TRAINING LICENSE.
OH, YEAH. HE SAYS HE THINKS BEING HERE IS HAVING A GOOD INFLUENCE ON YOU...

OUT OF THE BLUE...
IT'S JUST US TWO!!
'COURSE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT...IF YOU'RE READY TO GO BACK PERMA-NENTLY...
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU GOTTA LEGALIZE THE FUNKY WAY YOU GOT DOWN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
GOOD GIRL!
I... I'LL DO IT...
THERE YOU GO, TREATING ME LIKE A KID AGAIN!
HEY... YOU ARE A KID, REMEM-BER?!
WAIT A SEC... THAT MEANS...
KEIICHI, MY LOVE...
BELL-DANDY, MY DARLING...
THANK YOU, uh, LORD!
Congratulations!!

DON'T!!
JUST 'CAUSE YOU TWO ARE ALONE...
YOU DARE DO ANY-THING-- GET ME?!
HEY.
OKAY, OKAY!
GIVE HIM MY BEST!
...I'VE LEFT BANPEI IN SPECIAL ATTACK MODE.
AND JUST IN CASE...
urnk!
ENOUGH ALREADY, SKULD! GO, GO!

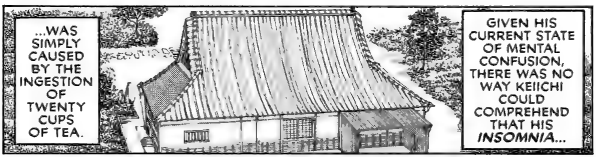
DON'T FORGET TO RECORD MY TV SHOW.
smak smak
AND THAT...
...IS THAT.
AND DON'T... FORGET TO TRY GETTING... A LITTLE CLOSER.
DAMNED IF I DO, AND DAMNED IF I DON'T...
BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T TRY--IT'S LIGHTNING BOLTS FOR YOU, BOY!
FOA PRO

IT'S THE FIFTH AMERICAN MATCH BATTLE!
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
HOW'S LIGHTNING LOOKING TONIGHT?!
HE LOOKS PRETTY TIRED-- I THINK HE'LL BE EASY MEAT FOR SAPPHIRE TONIGHT!
...
...WE CAN'T EVEN MAKE CONVERSATION!
THIS IS PATHETIC!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE WERE ALONE...

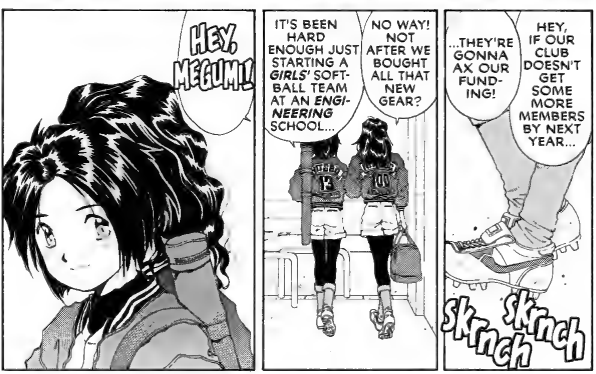
NO! ...SO WHY DON'T YOU SAY WHAT'S REALLY ON YOUR MIND?!
GET IT TOGETHER, MORISATO!! DID YOU WANT TO BE ALONE WITH HER JUST SO YOU COULD DRINK TWELVE CUPS OF TEA?!
BAM
BELL-DANDY!
Y-YES?
WE'RE, uh... YOU KNOW... FINALLY...

?
--!
...ALL ALONE--
WELL, OF COURSE!
Damn... forgot about HIM.
SO...uh, COULD I...have some more TEA?
...I CAN'T SLEEP.
I...
GOOD NIGHT
GOOD NIGHT, BELLPANDY.
KEICHI'S SHOP

...THE THOUGHT OF BEING ALONE WITH BELL-DANDY... WON'T EVEN LET ME SLEEP?
STARE STARE
Shiver Shiver
WHAT'S H-HAPPEN-ING? D-DON'T TELL ME...

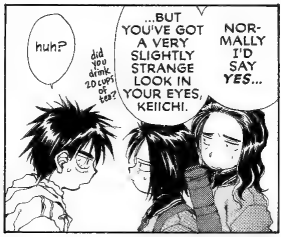

...WAS SIMPLY CAUSED BY THE INGESTION OF TWENTY CUPS OF TEA.
GIVEN HIS CURRENT STATE OF MENTAL CONFUSION, THERE WAS NO WAY KEIICHI COULD COMPREHEND THAT HIS INSOMNIA...

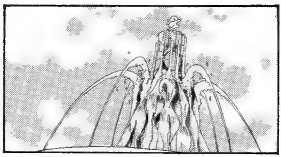
THE NEXT DAY

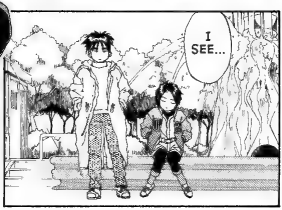

HEY, MEGUMI!
IT'S BEEN HARD ENOUGH JUST STARTING A GIRLS' SOFT-BALL TEAM AT AN ENGI-NEERING SCHOOL...
NO WAY! NOT AFTER WE BOUGHT ALL THAT NEW GEAR?
...THEY'RE GONNA AX OUR FUND-ING!
HEY, IF OUR CLUB DOESN'T GET SOME MORE MEMBERS BY NEXT YEAR...
skrnch
skrnch

LET ME STAY THERE TONIGHT.
MEGUMI. YOUR PLACE.

....AS SOON AS YOU'RE ALONE... YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY TO HER.
IN OTHER WORDS...
RIGHT?


huh?
did you drink 20 cups of tea?
...BUT YOU'VE GOT A VERY SLIGHTLY STRANGE LOOK IN YOUR EYES, KEIICHI.
NORMALLY I'D SAY YES...

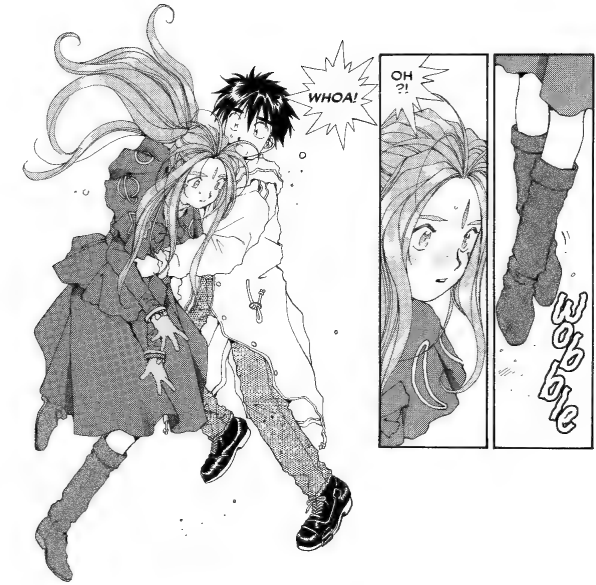



I SEE...

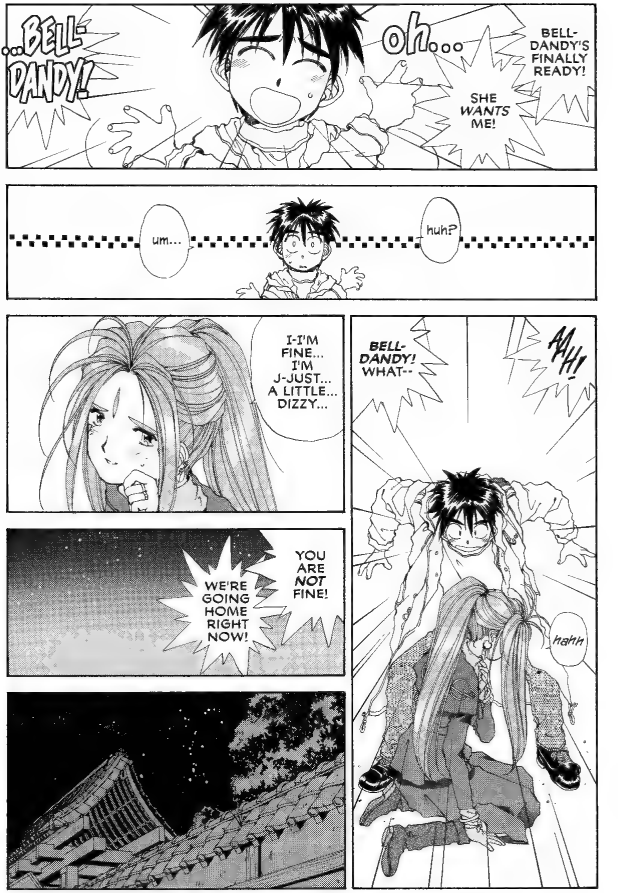
AND IT'S PROBABLY NOT MY PLACE TO BUTT IN, BUT YOU KNOW...
LOOK... I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW THINGS ARE BE-TWEEN YOU GUYS.
AW, C'MON... YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING...
WAIT A SEC... KEIICHI... DON'T TELL ME THAT AFTER ALL THIS TIME, YOU STILL HAVEN'T... DONE IT?
NO WAY !!
AFTER LIVING TOGETHER SO LONG ?!
YOU'RE STILL VIR-GINS?
HUH ?!
YEAH. SO HAVE YOU?
NO.
COME RIGHT TO THE POINT, DON'T YOU, SIS?
oh wow...
IS KEI-CHAN REALLY... A MAN?
...THAT'S WHAT YOUR LITTLE SISTER THINKS.
OR ANY-WAY...
...AFTER A CERTAIN POINT, IT'S OKAY TO SHOW YOUR LOVE WITH MORE THAN JUST A SHY SMILE.

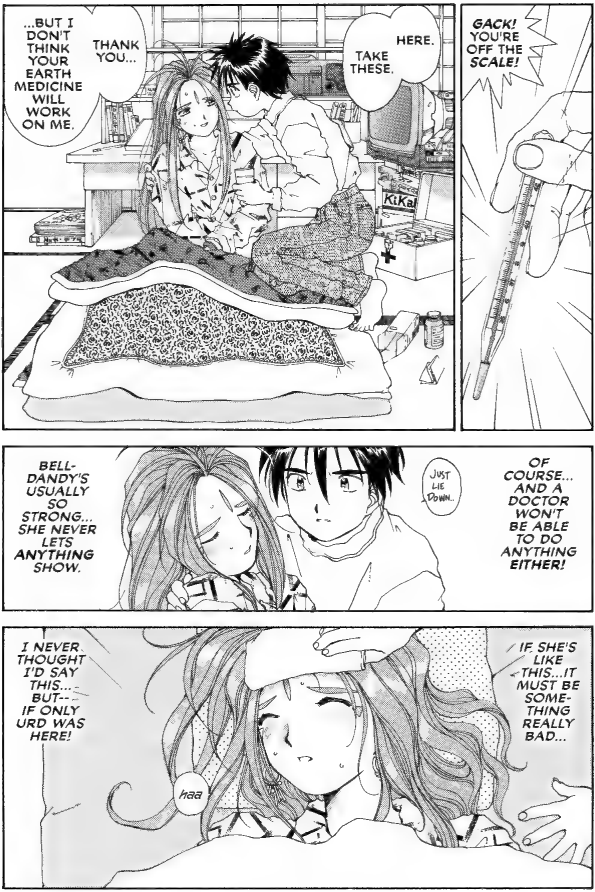
SHUT UP!
...DON'T FORGET TO USE A--
AND SINCE YOU SEEM TO NEED A LITTLE ADVICE...
SO MAKE YOUR MOVE, BRO!
AND IF BELL-DANDY'S A NORMAL GIRL, SHE'LL BE THINKING IT, TOO.
...IF BELLDANDY WAS A NORMAL GIRL...
STILL, SHE'S RIGHT...
IF SHE WAS JUST A GIRL LIKE ALL THOSE OTHER GIRLS...

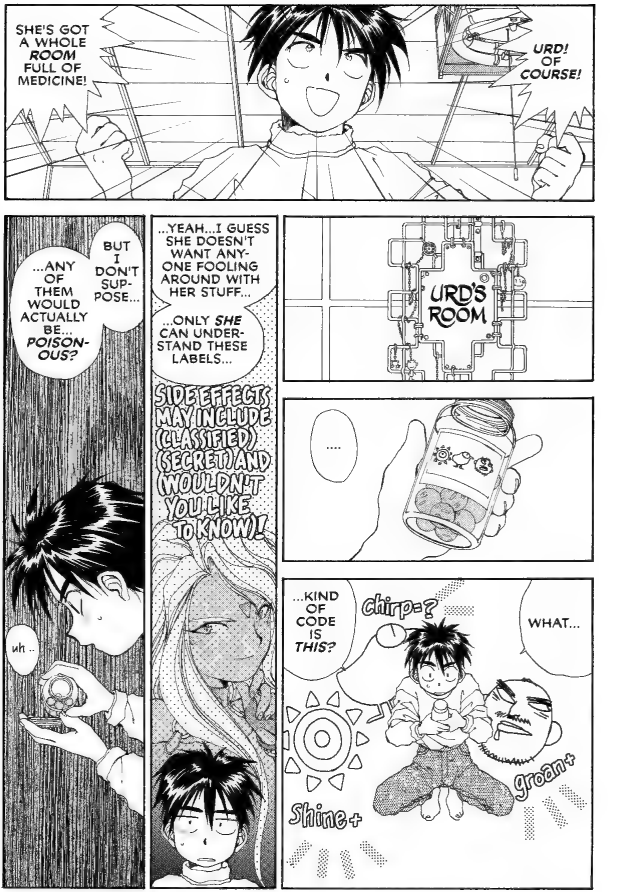
BELL-DANDY ...?
NO, BELL-DANDY...
...BE STRONG.
URD WILL BE BACK THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW.
YOU JUST HAVE TO HOLD OUT FOR TWO MORE NIGHTS...
I'M SORRY. I WAS... THINKING.
REALLY? YOUR FACE IS A LITTLE... RED...
OH...
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO HEAR ME...


WHOA!
OH ?!
wobble

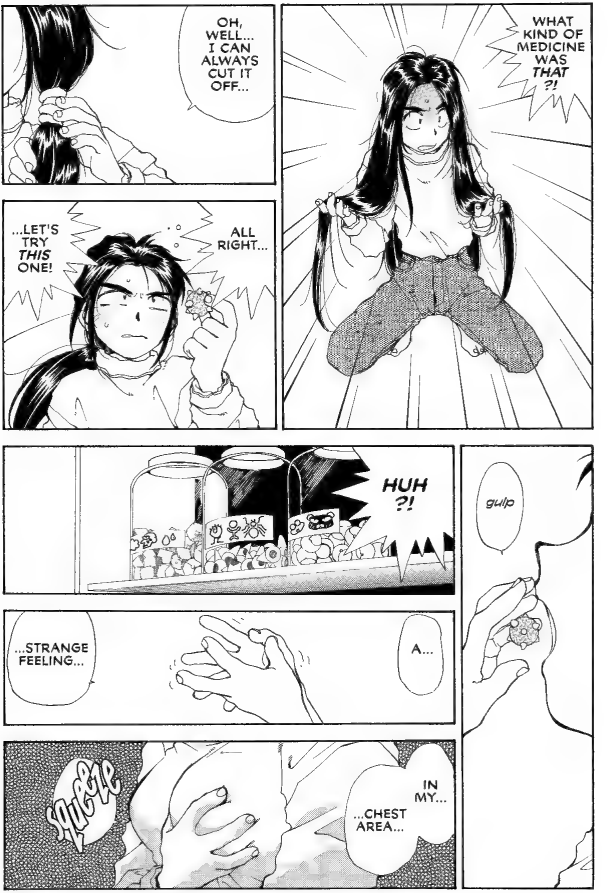
I'M SORRY. I...I STUMBLED...
THOSE EYES... SO FULL OF LONGING...
...THIS FAINTLY BLUSHING FACE...


...BELL-DANDY!
oh...
BELL-DANDY'S FINALLY READY!
SHE WANTS ME!
um...
huh?
I-I'M FINE... I'M J-JUST... A LITTLE... DIZZY...
BELL-DANDY! WHAT--
AAH!
YOU ARE NOT FINE!
WE'RE GOING HOME RIGHT NOW!
HMMH


...BUT I DON'T THINK YOUR EARTH MEDICINE WILL WORK ON ME.
THANK YOU...
HERE. TAKE THESE.
KitKat
GACK! YOU'RE OFF THE SCALE!
BELL-DANDY'S USUALLY SO STRONG... SHE NEVER LETS ANYTHING SHOW.
JUST LIE DOWN.
OF COURSE... AND A DOCTOR WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING EITHER!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SAY THIS... BUT-- IF ONLY URD WAS HERE!
haa
IF SHE'S LIKE THIS...IT MUST BE SOMETHING REALLY BAD...


SHE'S GOT A WHOLE ROOM FULL OF MEDICINE!
URD! OF COURSE!
...ANY OF THEM WOULD ACTUALLY BE... POISONOUS?
BUT I DON'T SUPPOSE...
uh..
...YEAH...I GUESS SHE DOESN'T WANT ANYONE FOOLING AROUND WITH HER STUFF...
...ONLY SHE CAN UNDERSTAND THESE LABELS...
SIDE EFFECTS MAY INCLUDE (CLASSIFIED) (SECRET) AND (WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW)!
URD'S ROOM
....
...KIND OF CODE IS THIS?
chirp=?
WHAT...
Shine+
Groan+

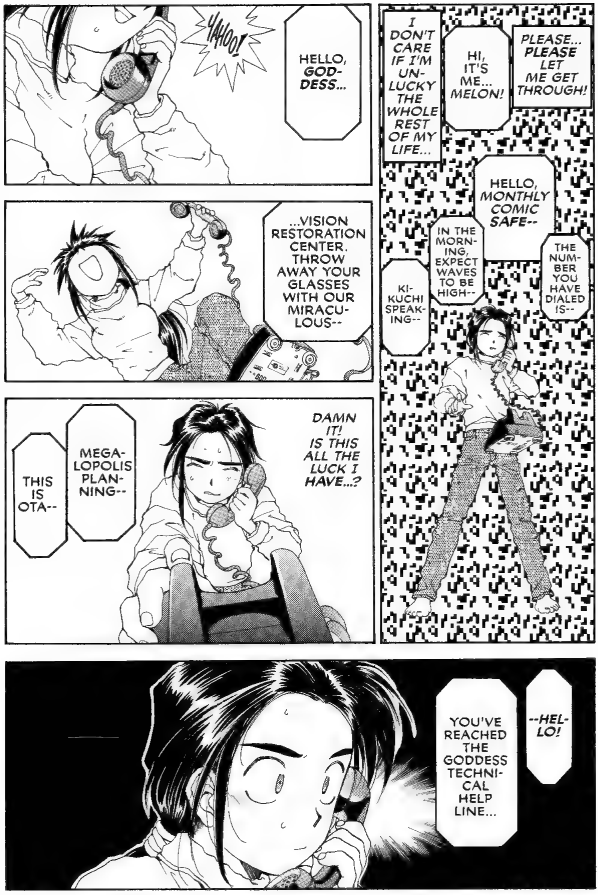
GUESS I'M OKAY...
whew
lub-DUP
lub-DUP
...BEFORE I GIVE THEM TO BELL-DANDY--
gulp
URK!!
sproing!
...WHOA ...?!
hahh...
hahh
YAIEEE!
ITCHY!
bonk
...MY SCALP!
M-MY HEAD...


OH, WELL... I CAN ALWAYS CUT IT OFF...
WHAT KIND OF MEDICINE WAS *THAT* ?!
...LET'S TRY *THIS* ONE!
ALL RIGHT...
HUH ?!
gulp
...STRANGE FEELING...
A...
IN MY... ...CHEST AREA...
YIKE

I'VE TURNED INTO A GIRL!
Underpass next!
"ONCE I REALLY WAS A GIRL ALL THE WAY--TEMPORARILY.
AEE!!
YAARG!
"AFTER THAT, I TRIED A WHOLE LOT MORE.
"BUT IN THE END, I COULDN'T FIND THE RIGHT PILLS."
...I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
I'M SORRY, BELL-DANDY. I...
JUST ON TOP.
HMM...
...OKAY.
WWWIPP
It's Consulting

I GUESS MY FEELINGS ALONE...
...JUST AREN'T GOOD FOR ANYTHING.
TH... THAT'S NOT TRUE.
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE, YOU CAN NEVER BEGIN TO LOVE.
AFTER ALL... THE HEART IS THE WELLSPRING OF ALL THINGS.

...LESS...
POWER...
YOU'RE NOT...
AND KEICHI...
YOUR FEELINGS...
...THEY DO COMFORT ME.
!!
HELLO, STUDIO A-I-G...
OH, I'M SORRY. WRONG NUMBER...
SHKK tik tik tik
SHKK tik tik
tik tik tik tik
SHKK

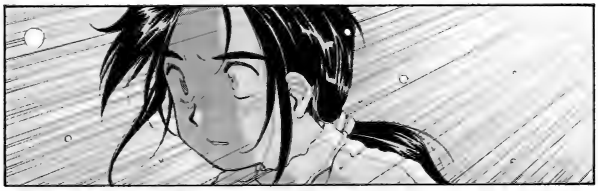

YAHOO!
HELLO, GODDESS...
...VISION RESTORATION CENTER. THROW AWAY YOUR GLASSES WITH OUR MIRACULOUS--
DAMN IT! IS THIS ALL THE LUCK I HAVE...?
MEGALOPOLIS PLANNING--
THIS IS OTA--
I DON'T CARE IF I'M UNLUCKY THE WHOLE REST OF MY LIFE...
HI, IT'S ME... MELON!
PLEASE... PLEASE LET ME GET THROUGH!
HELLO, MONTHLY COMIC SAFE--
IN THE MORNING, EXPECT WAVES TO BE HIGH--
KIKUCHI SPEAKING--
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED IS--
--HELLO!
YOU'VE REACHED THE GODDESS TECHNICAL HELP LINE...

um...
KEIICHI ?!
IS THAT YOU, URD?!
URD ...?
BUT, HEY-- I WAS BORED ANY-WAY--
SO ANYWAY, SCULLY'S BEEN A REAL PEST SINCE WE'VE BEEN HERE, AND LIKE, OUR PROTECTION THE DEAL WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET, SO I'M PRETTY SURE SHE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE TELLING ANYONE ABOUT US, SO I'M NOT TOO CONCERNED ABOUT IT.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THEY GOT ME WORKING THE SWITCHBOARD?
HEY, YOU SHOULDN'T CALL HERE. YOU'RE GONNA GET US BOTH IN TROUBLE!!
...I DON'T BELIEVE THIS. HOW'D YOU GET THIS NUMBER ...?
URD, WILL YOU SHUT UP FOR A SECOND?! BELL-DANDY'S IN TROUBLE!
THIS COULD BE BAD, KEIICHI.
I TOLD HER NOT TO USE HER FULL POWER WITH JUST THOSE BRACELETS..
HMM...IT MUST BE A REACTION TO THAT HIGH-LEVEL SPELL SHE USED ON THOSE NINJA.

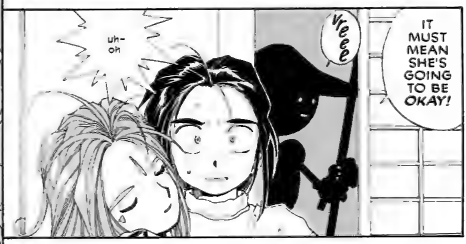
HEY, WAIT...
GAVE ME LONG HAIR, AND...
WHEN IT'S ALL MELTED, POUR IT INTO A CAPSULE, AND--
THEN, USE A MATCH... IT'S GOTTA BE A SINGLE WOODEN MATCH, RIGHT, AND--
NEXT, MIX A RATIO OF 2:3:1.5 OF--
OKAY, LISTEN UP. I'LL TEACH YOU THE CURE. FIRST, ONE PART EACH OF--
...THIS IS ALCHEMY, KEIICHI... OCCULT KNOWLEDGE IS REQUIRED-- duhhh...
YOU CAN'T JUST POP THE INGREDIENTS LIKE WASABI PEAS...
YES, YES, I HAVE TWO MYSELF. YOU TOOK THEM WITHOUT PROCESSING, MORON?!
GAVE ME, uh, GAVE ME...
HEY! KEIICHI ...?!
HELLO? HELLO ...?
sigh ANYWAY, THAT SHOULD HOLD HER UNTIL I GET BACK.

AH, WELL-- I GUESS HE'LL BE OKAY.
klook
STILL... HE IS AN AMAZING GUY.
HE MUST BE THE FIRST PERSON WHO EVER TRIED CALLING HERE AND ACTUALLY GOT THROUGH...
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO WAS THAT?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR NEVER-MIND. RUN ALONG AND GET YOUR LICENSE CHANGED, KID.
YOU'RE TRYIN' TO GET RID OF ME AGAIN! I HATE THAT!!
COOL. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT WOULD DO THAT TO HUMANS.
BETTER MAKE A NOTE OF IT...
STOP IGNOR-ING ME!

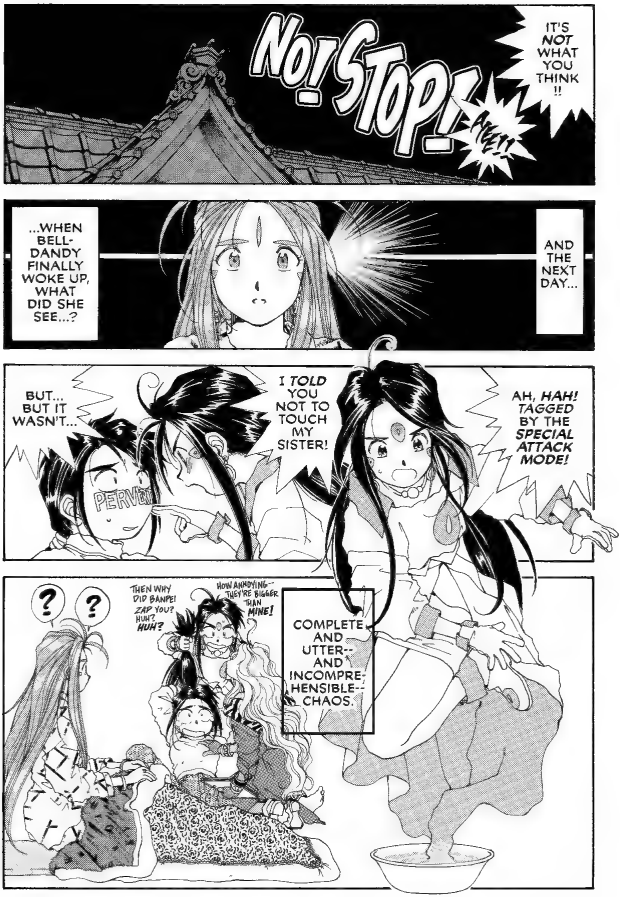
SHE... SHE PASSED OUT...
LOOK-- I'VE GOT SOME NICE MEDICINE FOR YOU...
BELL-DANDY ...?
I'M SORRY, BELLDANDY, BUT I'VE GOT TO GIVE IT TO YOU SOME-HOW...
...PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

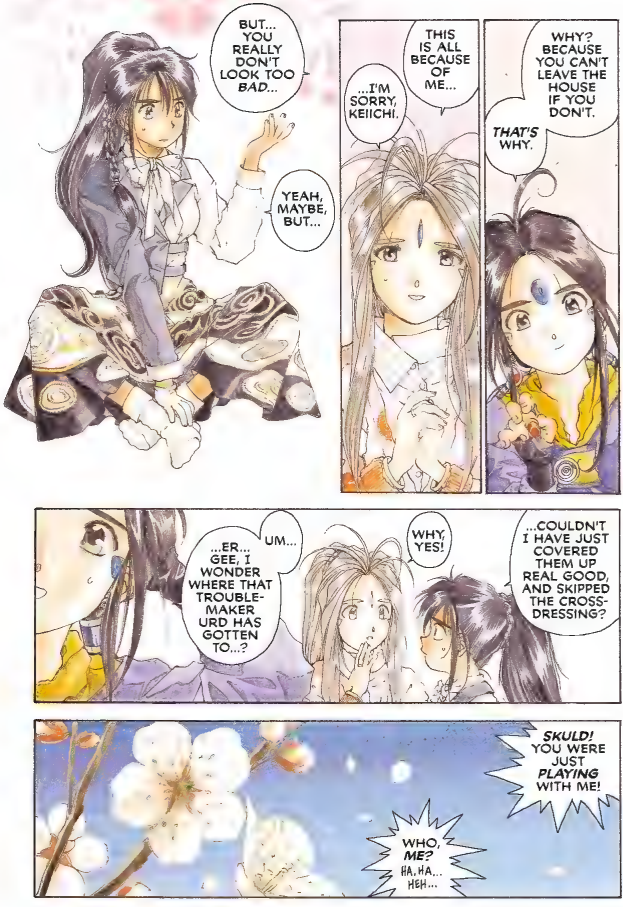


AH! THAT HOLY LIGHT !!


IT MUST MEAN SHE'S GOING TO BE OKAY!
Vrrrr
uh-oh

ATTACK MODE
NORMAL
ANTI-DEMON
SPECIAL
DOOMSDAY
KCHK
AW, C'MON, BANPEI-- PLEASE ??
FILE 1


NO! STOP! AHEE!!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK !!
...WHEN BELL-DANDY FINALLY WOKE UP, WHAT DID SHE SEE...?
AND THE NEXT DAY...
BUT... BUT IT WASN'T...
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TOUCH MY SISTER!
AH, HAH! TAGGED BY THE SPECIAL ATTACK MODE!
PERVERT
?
?
THEN WHY DID BANPEI ZAP YOU? HUH? HUH?
HOW ANNOYING-- THEY'RE BIGGER THAN MINE!
COMPLETE AND UTTER-- AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE-- CHAOS.


BUT... YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK TOO *BAD*...
YEAH, MAYBE, BUT...
...I'M SORRY, KEIICHI.
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF ME...
WHY? BECAUSE YOU CAN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE IF YOU DON'T.
THAT'S WHY.
..ER.. GEE, I WONDER WHERE THAT TROUBLE-MAKER URD HAS GOTTEN TO...?
UM...
WHY, YES!
...COULDN'T I HAVE JUST COVERED THEM UP REAL GOOD, AND SKIPPED THE CROSS-DRESSING?
SKULD! YOU WERE JUST ***PLAYING*** WITH ME!
WHO, ***ME?*** HA, HA... HEH...

CHAPTER 55

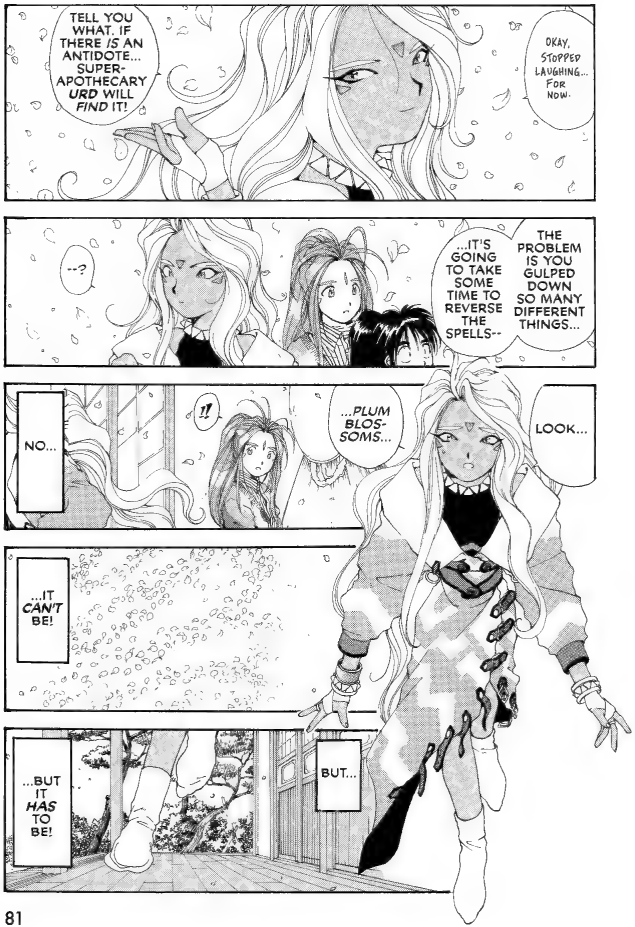
Can't Stop Being Jealous

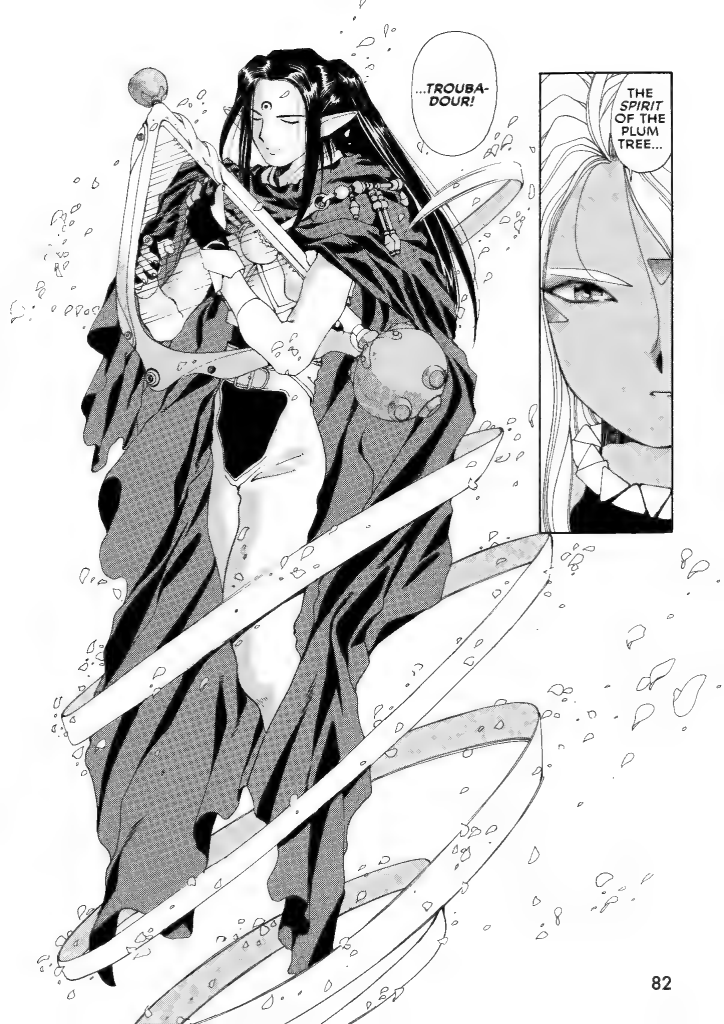
THESE BLOSSOMS REMIND ME OF HIM...

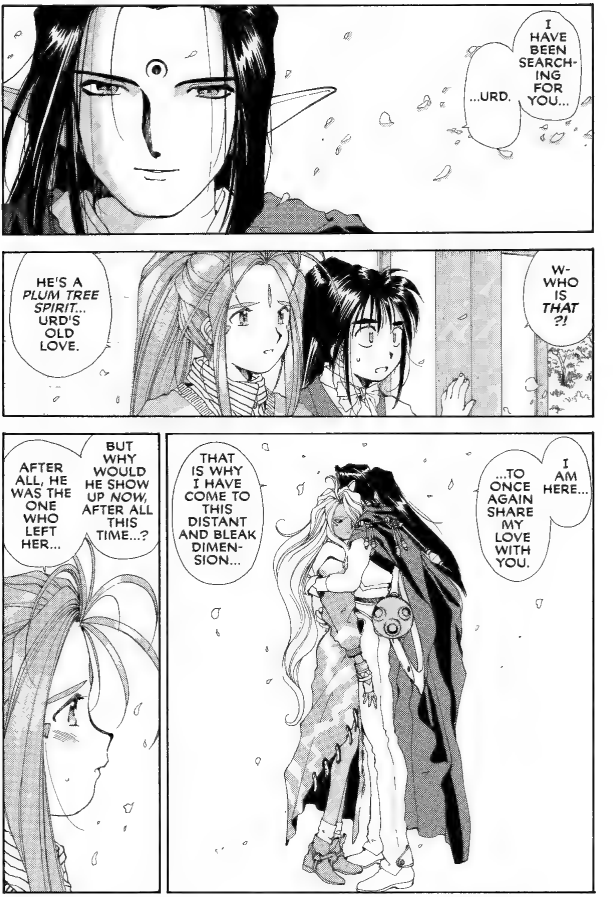
...THE PLUM TREE SPIRIT
I MEAN, THE FOOL *DUMPED* ME!
WHY DO I STILL REMEMBER AFTER ALL THIS TIME...?
...THE ONE I HEARD BACK HOME.
MAYBE IT WAS THAT RUMOR...
THEY SAID HE MIGHT BE COMING HERE...TO EARTH...

I WONDER HOW KEIICHI'S DOING ...?
WHICH RE-MINDS ME...
I'M GLAD HE DUMPED ME, THE JERK!
BWAH!
HAH! SO WHAT ?!
SNORT

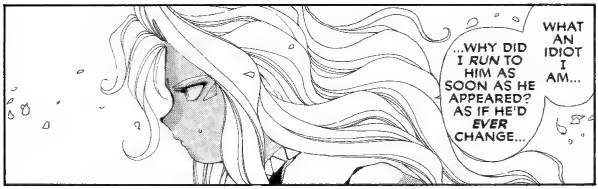
WELL, UH... YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE...
YEAH, SURE! IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WENT INTO MY ROOM AND TOOK MY STUFF WITHOUT MY PERMISSION, RIGHT?!
C'MON-- IT WAS YOUR STUPID MEDICINE THAT DID THIS TO ME!
...IT'S NOT THAT FUNNY.
DON'T LAUGH...
OH, BUT IT IS! IT IS THAT FUNNY!
snort #2
I'M SORRY, KEIICHI. I CAN'T REVERSE URD'S MEDICINE.
SHE USES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL OF MAGIC.
DON'T TELL ME...
M-MAYBE... I'LL BE THIS WAY...
...FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE ...?
HEY! YOU'RE UGLY...
...AND SKULD DRESS-ES YOU FUNNY!!

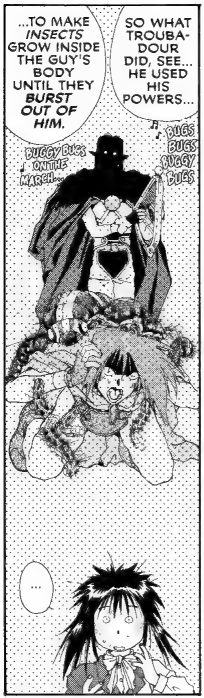

TELL YOU WHAT. IF THERE *IS* AN ANTIDOTE... SUPER-APOTHECARY *URD* WILL *FIND* IT!
OKAY, STOPPED LAUGHING... FOR NOW.
--?
...IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME TO REVERSE THE SPELLS--
THE PROBLEM IS YOU GULPED DOWN SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS...
NO...
!?
...PLUM BLOS-SOMS...
LOOK...
...IT *CAN'T* BE!
...BUT IT *HAS* TO BE!
BUT...

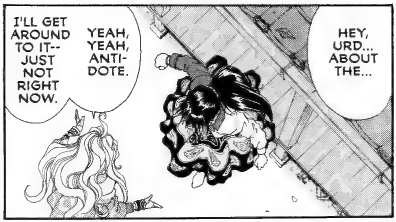

...TROUBA-DOUR!
THE SPIRIT OF THE PLUM TREE...


I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU...
...URD.
W-WHO IS *THAT?!*
HE'S A *PLUM TREE SPIRIT*... URD'S OLD LOVE.
I AM HERE...
...TO ONCE AGAIN SHARE MY LOVE WITH YOU.
THAT IS WHY I HAVE COME TO THIS DISTANT AND BLEAK DIMENSION...
BUT WHY WOULD HE SHOW UP *NOW*, AFTER ALL THIS TIME...?
AFTER ALL, HE WAS THE ONE WHO LEFT HER...

?
...THEN WHAT ABOUT MY ANTIDOTE?!
UM... YOU DON'T SUPPOSE HE'S GOING TO TRY TO GET BACK TOGETHER... TAKE HER AWAY...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD ACHIEVE BY SHOWING UP HERE.
PLEASE... JUST GO AWAY.
NO WAY I'M GOING BACK TO SOMEONE WHO REJECTED ME ALREADY.
BUT, SORRY-- FORGET IT. I'M NOT THAT DESPERATE.
WELL, FOR A START... YOUR LOUSY SONGS!
TWANGG
BLANGG
WHAT PART OF MY HEART DOES SHE HATE, MY HONEY BABY?!
WHY OHHH WHY?! WHY?!


WHAT AN IDIOT I AM...
...WHY DID I *RUN* TO HIM AS SOON AS HE APPEARED? AS IF HE'D *EVER* CHANGE...


...TO MAKE *INSECTS* GROW INSIDE THE GUY'S BODY UNTIL THEY *BURST OUT OF HIM.*
SO WHAT TROUBADOUR DID, SEE... HE USED HIS POWERS...
♪ BUGS BUGS BUGGY BUGS
BUGGY BUGS ON THE MARCH...
...


I'LL GET AROUND TO IT-- JUST NOT RIGHT NOW.
YEAH, YEAH, ANTIDOTE.
HEY, URD... ABOUT THE...

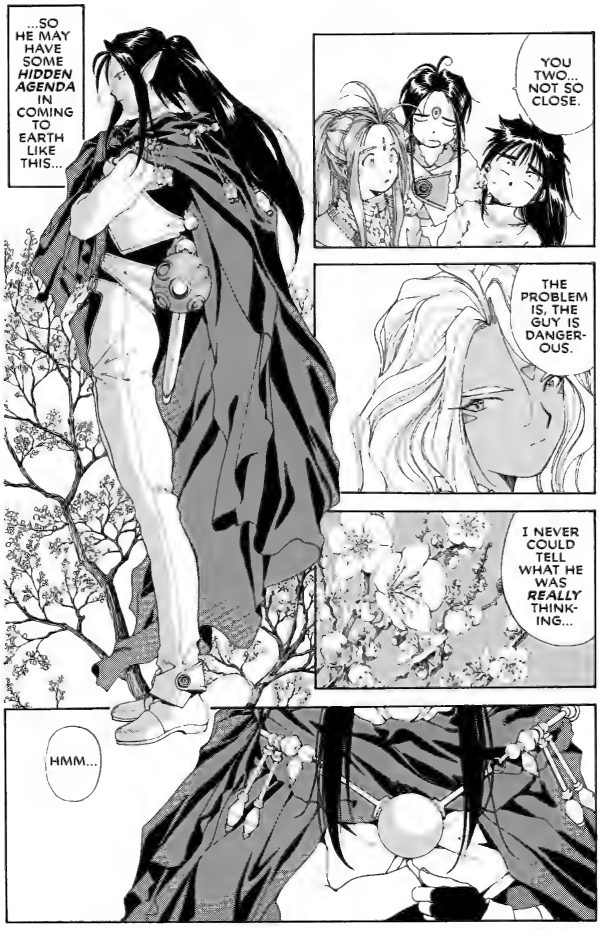
♪ OH WHOA WHOA... URD, MY URD... WHILE I'VE BEEN GONE... YOU'VE GONE SO COLD... LIKE FIVE ZETOTOKELVINS... AND BABY THAT'S COLD...
BACK WHEN WE WERE STILL TOGETHER, THERE WAS THIS JUNIOR GOD WHO TRIED TO HIT ON ME...

BECAUSE THAT ORONMAY IS INCREDIBLY *EALOUS*-JAY... THAT'S WHY.
B-B-BUT... WHY *NOT?!*

hmm...
COME TO THINK OF IT, URD... I HEARD A RUMOR YOU'RE LIVING WITH SOME MAN.
IF HE FOUND OUT THERE WAS A MAN LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF WITH ME...
WELL, HE'D PROBABLY DO SOMETHING VERY CREATIVE.
YES... NOW I SEE IT! THIS MAN! HE STOLE YOUR LOVE FROM ME!
UM...
HEY!
giggle!
tee hee!
AIN'T NOBODY HERE BUT US GIRLS!
AW, C'MON! ANOTHER MAN? WHERE?!
THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THAT...
IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME SINCE I GOT HERE...

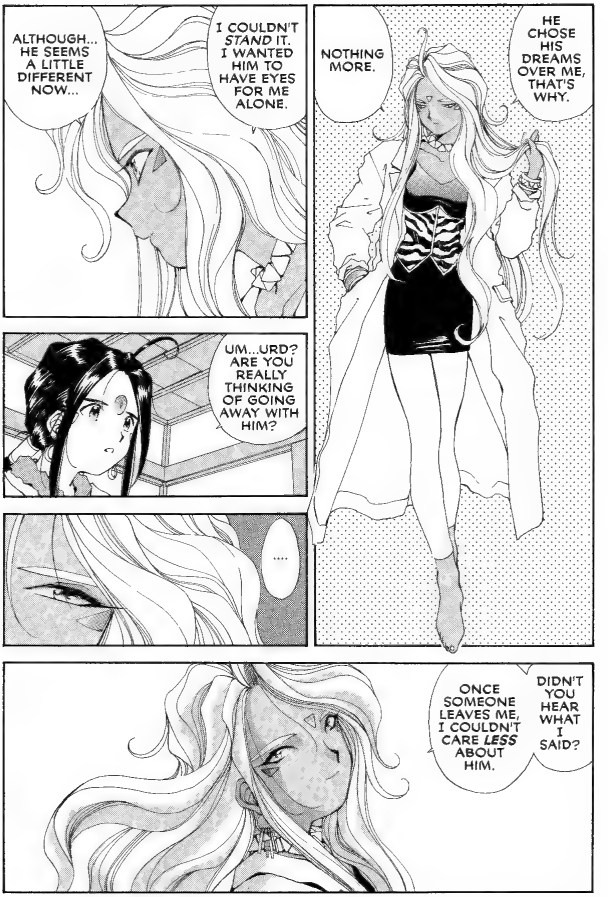
huh?
sorry, Keiichi...
BOY, ARE YOU PARA-NOID.
SHRIPPP
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO... THESE?
EMBARRASSED, BUT STILL THINKS SOMETHING'S NOT QUITE RIGHT.
HMM...
...

LET'S NOT GET BACK TOGETHER, AND SAY WE DID.
URD'S YUMMY, YUMMY, YUMMY... I GOT LOVE IN MY SPIRITUAL, ELDRITCH TUMMY...
WELL, ALL RIGHT. SO LONG AS THERE'S NO MAN IN YOUR LIFE...
...THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO STAND BETWEEN US!
NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE, URD!
HE'S DECIDED TO STAY!
YOU'VE ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE!
KEICHI'S SHOP
THEN I GUESS... I HAVE TO STAY LIKE THIS UNTIL HE LEAVES, HUH?
I MEAN, IT'S THAT, OR GIANT BUGS CRAWLING OUT OF MY BODY.
DON'T WORRY-- I WON'T LET HIM DO THAT TO YOU!


...SO HE MAY HAVE SOME *HIDDEN AGENDA* IN COMING TO EARTH LIKE THIS...
YOU TWO... NOT SO CLOSE.
THE PROBLEM IS, THE GUY IS DANGER-OUS.
I NEVER COULD TELL WHAT HE WAS *REALLY* THINK-ING...
HMM...

THE SCROLL OF GOLDEN VERSE! THE BUSH WARBLER SUMMONING SONG!
A LIFELONG DREAM RESTS NOW IN THE PALM OF MY HAND...
...IT WAITS BEYOND THIS SCROLL'S FINAL SEAL-- AWAITS ITS MOMENT TO SPRING TO LIFE!
WAITING TO OPEN...
...WHEN TOUCHED BY A GODDESS'S TEARS OF LOVE!

INSTRU-MENTALLY, HE'S GOOD.
URD'S ROOM
HEY, SIS...SO, LIKE-- WHY'D YOU GUYS BREAK UP, ANY-WAY?
NONE OF YOUR BEESWAX. JUST HURRY UP AND FIX MY TV, OKAY?
AW, COME ON! WHY?
IF YOU DON'T TELL ME, I WON'T FIX YOUR DUMB TV!
YOU GOSSIP-HUNGRY LITTLE...

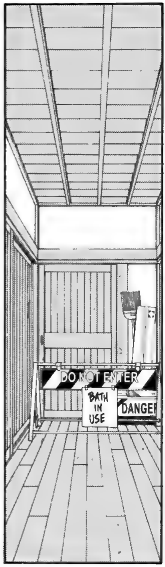

ALTHOUGH... HE SEEMS A LITTLE DIFFERENT NOW...
I COULDN'T *STAND* IT. I WANTED HIM TO HAVE EYES FOR ME ALONE.
NOTHING MORE.
HE CHOSE HIS DREAMS OVER ME, THAT'S WHY.
UM...URD? ARE YOU REALLY THINKING OF GOING AWAY WITH HIM?
....
ONCE SOMEONE LEAVES ME, I COULDN'T CARE *LESS* ABOUT HIM.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?

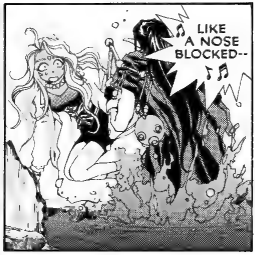
...
...WHAT A PAIN. IT'S TOO BAD I COULDN'T GET RID OF TROUBA-DOUR FOR GOOD.
YEAH... I GUESS SO.
THERE. JUST LIKE NEW.
THERE WAS A COLD SOLDER JOINT ON THIS RESISTOR, THAT'S ALL.
YER A GENIUS, KID!
JUST IN TIME TO WATCH GIANT X!
WHAT A RELIEF.
KNK
SPRAKK
OHHHH! LORD, MY LORD! WHY WON'T YOU TURN YOUR TANZANITE EYES UPON MEEEEEEE—

UH - oh
HO HO HO. THANK YOU FOR THE LOVELY SONG.
I JUST FIXED IT...
NOW I'M GONNA MISS MY FAVORITE TV SHOW!
FORGIVE ME, FOR LOVE IS MYYYYY ONLY CRIME!
NO-- DON'T FORGET YOUR LYRICS.
sigh...
WHAT'S WRONG, URD?
NOTH-ING...
...JUST TROUBA-DOUR.

TWANGG
SENTENCED TO YOUR MEDIUM-SECURITY PRISON OF LOVVVVVE--

I SHOULD BE SAFE IN HERE...


DO NOT ENTER
BATH IN USE
DANGER


LIKE A NOSE BLOCKED--

--WITH NO VAP-O-RUB...

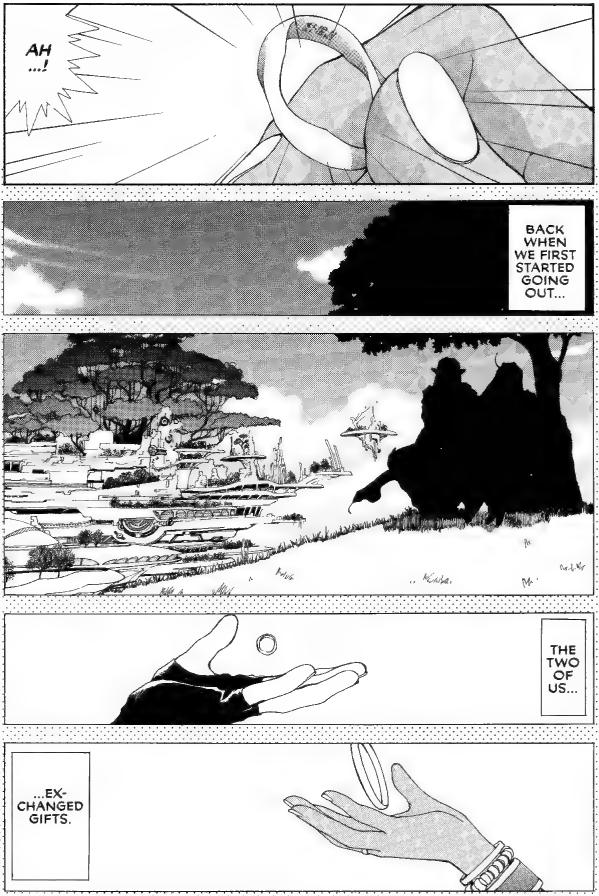
...!
BUT I DON'T THINK EVEN *HE* WOULD DARE BOTHER ME IN THE--
I SURE DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO BE SO DAMN *PERSIST-ENT*.
THERE'S SOME *STRANGE PRESENCE* LURKING HERE...
...SOME-THING TELLS ME NOT TO TAKE MY BATH NOW.
HUH? IS URD FINISHED ALREADY?
YEAH... BETTER WAIT...

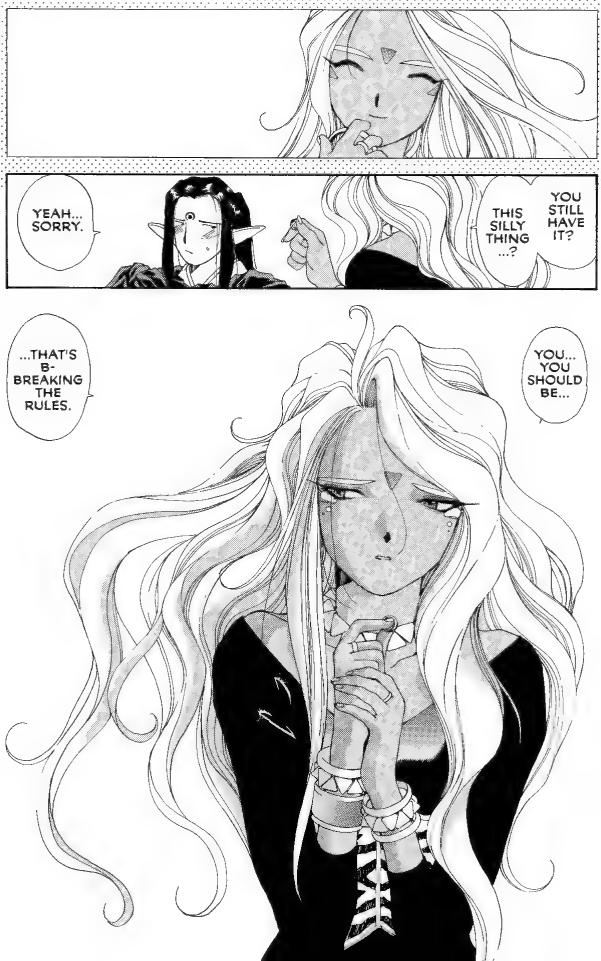
I MAY AS WELL TAKE MINE, THEN.
SHFF
...THEY'RE, LIKE...
...REALLY BIG.
MAN...
YOU KNOW...
AHH... HERE SHE COMES!
KLIK KCHAK
I THINK I'D JUST BETTER STOP LOOKING DOWN ENTIRELY...
...
...
tmp

TWANGG
OHHHH! TRUE LOVE HAS NO SEEE--
!!
--CRETS.
...
WHY...
...YOU...

AAGH!! SNEAKY, TREACH-EROUS SWINE!!
SO!!
YOU AND URD HAVE BEEN--
TRYING TO DISGUISE YOURSELF, EH? BUT YOU MADE ONE MISTAKE-- YOU STOPPED HALFWAY!
NO! WAIT! YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!
KEIICHI!
NO! DON'T!!
SO I WILL YOU!
WHEN THIS SONG REACHES ITS END...

IF YOU DON'T, I'LL ...!
FZZZAK
BUGGY BUGS...
STOP IT!
BUGGY BUGS ON THE MARCH!
AHHH!!
LAY OFF, JERK!
KRAK
URK
Arrrngg Arrrngg
Sing
...WHAT'S THIS ...?
?

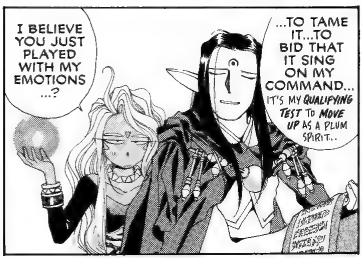

AH ...!
BACK WHEN WE FIRST STARTED GOING OUT...
THE TWO OF US...
...EX-CHANGED GIFTS.

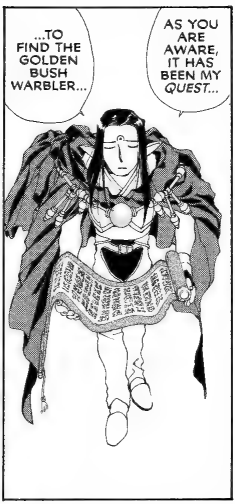

YEAH... SORRY.
THIS SILLY THING ...?
YOU STILL HAVE IT?
...THAT'S B-BREAKING THE RULES.
YOU... YOU SHOULD BE...

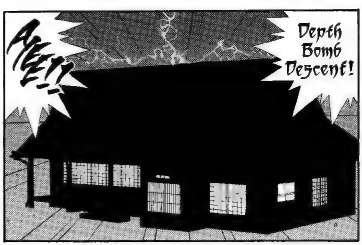
!!
HA!
SPSSHH
SSHHHH
SNAP
I DID IT... I DID IT!!

uh-oh
HUH ...?
WH... WHAT DID YOU DO?

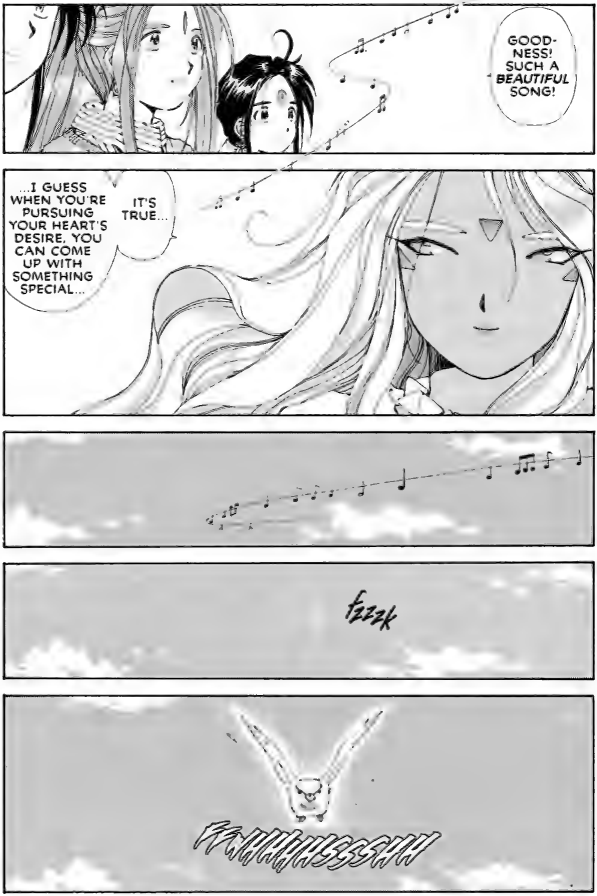
UM, SEE...
...THIS SCROLL HERE...


I BELIEVE YOU JUST PLAYED WITH MY EMOTIONS ...?
...TO TAME IT...TO BID THAT IT SING ON MY COMMAND...
IT'S MY QUALIFYING TEST TO MOVE UP AS A PLUM SPIRIT...


...TO FIND THE GOLDEN BUSH WARBLER...
AS YOU ARE AWARE, IT HAS BEEN MY QUEST...


AEET!?
Depth Bomb Descent!

THE NEXT DAY


GOOD-NESS! SUCH A *BEAUTIFUL* SONG!
IT'S TRUE...
...I GUESS WHEN YOU'RE PURSUING YOUR HEART'S DESIRE, YOU CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING SPECIAL...
fzzzk
FFWHHHSSSHH

FLAP FLAP
OH, MY...! WHAT A VERY BIG... BIRD!
THERE IT IS AT LAST! THE GOLDEN BUSH WARBLER!
ALL MY LIFE HAS LED UP TO THIS MOMENT!
HEY! DOWN IN FRONT!

ohhhhh... ITS SONG CUTS ME TO THE HEART...
ISN'T IT JUST AMAZING, URD?! HUH?!
HONEST-LY...?
...I LIKE YOUR SONGS BETTER.
WHA-?! NO!!
FLAP FLAP
DOOOOOM!
SHE... SHE DOESN'T UNDER-STAND!
HEY, YOU OUGHTA BE THRILLED, IDIOT!
OH, NO! WHY?! WHY?!
FWIP
TUGG TUGG

I SHALL PURSUE!
IT'S GONE-- *WITH* THE SCROLL!
CURSES!
OH... GO ON.
...
HERE... YOU FORGOT THIS.
...BUT YOU KNOW-- I WOULDN'T *WANT* A TROUBADOUR WHO'S FORGOTTEN HOW TO DREAM.
IT HURTS THAT YOU'D CHOOSE SOME SILLY BIRD OVER *ME*...

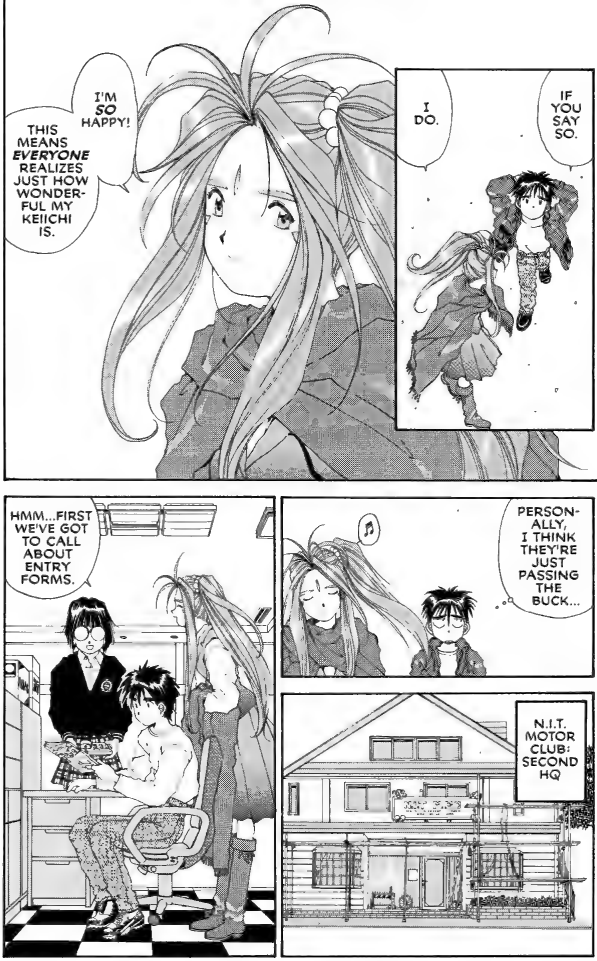
...FOR-GIVE ME, URD!
YEESH... *WHAT* AN IDIOT.
HANG-ING ON TO THAT SILLY RING...
TO URD, FROM TROUBADOUR
...ALL THIS TIME...
OOPS! I FORGOT...
UH, ANTI-DOTE? PLEASE?

CHAPTER 56

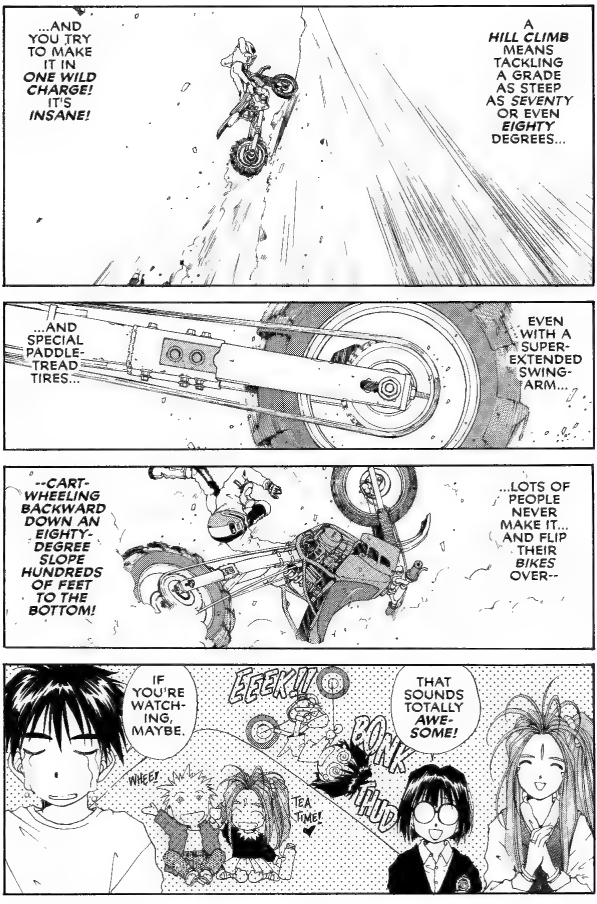
It's Lonely at the Top

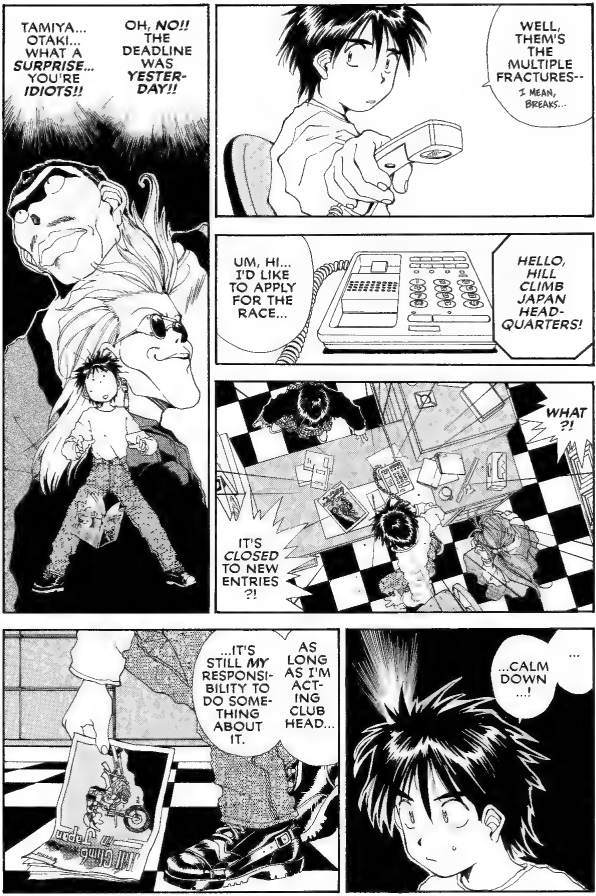
...THEY'RE BOTH OUT SICK?!
WHAT?! TAMIYA AND OTAKI...
...AND WHO'S GOING TO WANT TO DO THAT?
SO WE NEED A TEMPORARY CLUB DIRECTOR, RIGHT?
THEY SAID THERE WAS SOME KIND OF RACE COMING UP IN JUST TWO WEEKS!
NOW WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?!
HEY! WAIT!
HAI!!!!!
...SAY "HAI!!"
ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF KEIICHI MORISATO...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS HAPPENED TO ME... YEESH.
YES... IT'S *SO* WONDER-FUL!
WHAT IS ...?
IT MEANS THEY *TRUST* YOU, KEIICHI.

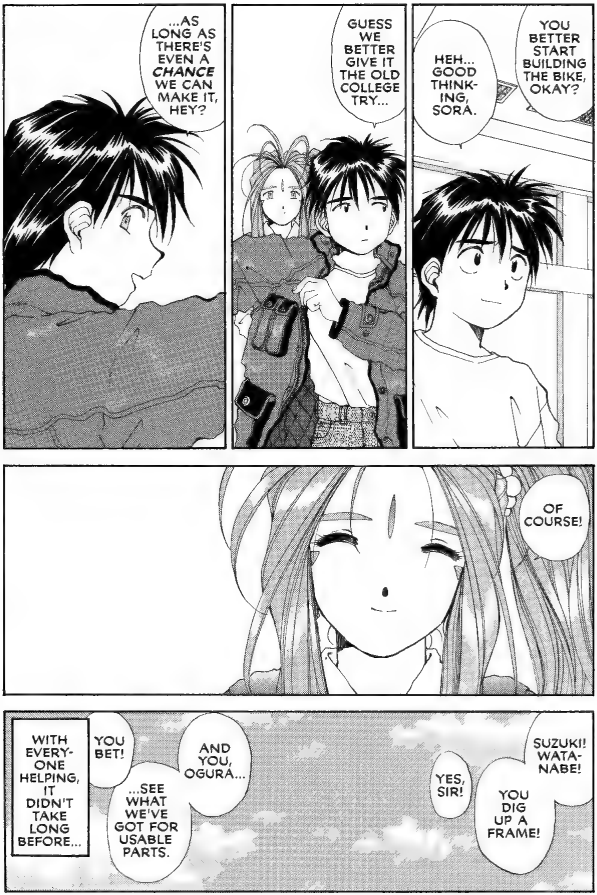

I'M SO HAPPY!
THIS MEANS EVERYONE REALIZES JUST HOW WONDERFUL MY KEIICHI IS.
I DO.
IF YOU SAY SO.
HMM...FIRST WE'VE GOT TO CALL ABOUT ENTRY FORMS.
PERSONALLY, I THINK THEY'RE JUST PASSING THE BUCK...
N.I.T. MOTOR CLUB: SECOND HQ

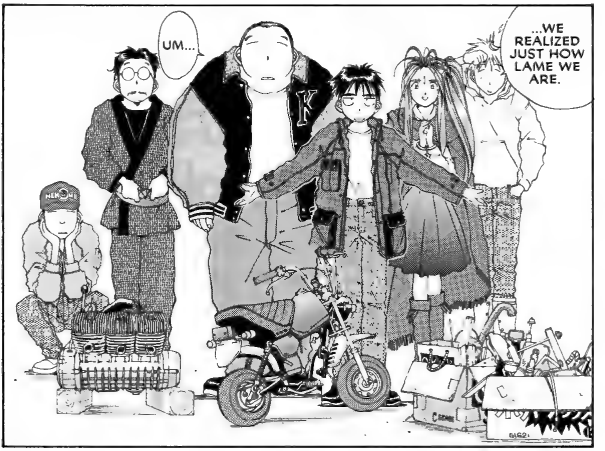
ACK!
Hill Climb in Japan
EH?!
Designed by Heta-Kichi Co.
LET'S SEE... WHERE'S THEIR PHONE NUMBER...
IT'S A H-HILL CLIMB ?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SIR?
PUTT PUTT
WELL... NOT EXACTLY...
THEY DON'T QUITE GET IT...
WHEE !!
SOUNDS EASY!
PICNIC! ♥
DRIVING UP A HILL... HOW PLEASANT.
A HILL-CLIMBING RACE ...? WHAT FUN!

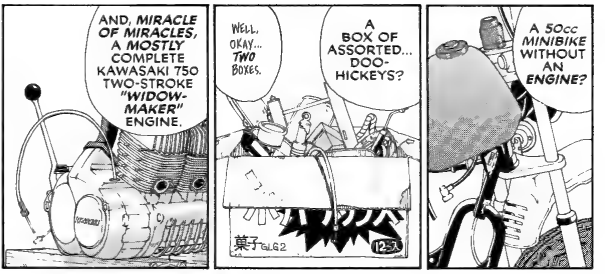

...AND YOU TRY TO MAKE IT IN *ONE WILD CHARGE!* IT'S *INSANE!*
A *HILL CLIMB* MEANS TACKLING A GRADE AS STEEP AS *SEVENTY* OR EVEN *EIGHTY* DEGREES...
...AND SPECIAL PADDLE-TREAD TIRES...
EVEN WITH A SUPER-EXTENDED SWING-ARM...
--CART-WHEELING BACKWARD DOWN AN EIGHTY-DEGREE SLOPE HUNDREDS OF FEET TO THE BOTTOM!
...LOTS OF PEOPLE NEVER MAKE IT... AND FLIP THEIR *BIKES* OVER--
IF YOU'RE WATCH-ING, MAYBE.
EEEK!!
BONK
THUD
WHEE!
TEA TIME!
THAT SOUNDS TOTALLY *AWE-SOME!*


TAMIYA... OTAKI... WHAT A SURPRISE... YOU'RE IDIOTS!!
OH, NO!! THE DEADLINE WAS YESTER-DAY!!
WELL, THEM'S THE MULTIPLE FRACTURES-- I MEAN, BREAKS...
UM, HI... I'D LIKE TO APPLY FOR THE RACE...
HELLO, HILL CLIMB JAPAN HEAD-QUARTERS!
WHAT ?!
IT'S CLOSED TO NEW ENTRIES ?!
AS LONG AS I'M ACT-ING CLUB HEAD...
...IT'S STILL MY RESPONSI-BILITY TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT.
...
...CALM DOWN ...!

DIRECTOR...? I'LL GO TALK WITH THEM.
...GUESS I'LL GO ASK IN PERSON.
ALL I CAN DO IS TRY TO PERSUADE THEM...
IT'S OFTEN BETTER TO DELEGATE, SIR.
HUH? OH, NO, NO. I'M IN CHARGE, SO--
DON'T FORGET-- THERE'S MORE THAN ONE MEMBER OF THE AUTO CLUB, SIR.
THE LEADER SHOULD STAY AT HQ AND MANAGE THINGS.


...AS LONG AS THERE'S EVEN A CHANCE WE CAN MAKE IT, HEY?
GUESS WE BETTER GIVE IT THE OLD COLLEGE TRY...
HEH... GOOD THINK-ING, SORA.
YOU BETTER START BUILDING THE BIKE, OKAY?
OF COURSE!
WITH EVERY-ONE HELPING, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG BEFORE...
YOU BET!
...SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT FOR USABLE PARTS.
AND YOU, OGURA...
YES, SIR!
SUZUKI! WATA-NABE!
YOU DIG UP A FRAME!


UM...
...WE REALIZED JUST HOW LAME WE ARE.

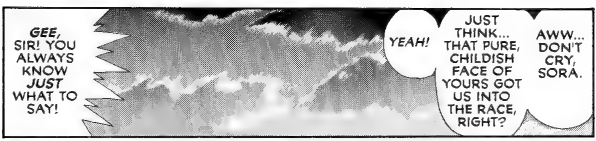

AND, MIRACLE OF MIRACLES, A MOSTLY COMPLETE KAWASAKI 750 TWO-STROKE "WIDOW-MAKER" ENGINE.
WELL, OKAY... TWO BOXES.
A BOX OF ASSORTED... DOO-HICKEYS?
A 50cc MINIBIKE WITHOUT AN ENGINE?

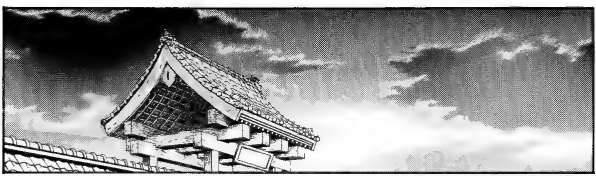
OH, YEAH?! WHAT?! WHERE?!
SIR! THERE IS ONE MORE MACHINE, SIR!
...ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS PILE OF JUNK?!
WH... WHAT...
WE CAN'T USE THAT, YOU LUMMOX!
IT COST US A FORTUNE!
OUR NITRO-FUELED GSX DRAG RACER, SIR!
...WE SLAP ON AN EXTENDED BOX FRAME SWINGARM... HMM...
THEN, AS PART OF THE FRAME MODS...
WELL, OKAY... IF THIS IS WHAT WE'VE GOT... WE'LL MOUNT THE ENGINE INTO A HYPER-REINFORCED MINIBIKE FRAME...
...
...
...
SO...ARE YOU SURE NONE OF YOU HAVE ANY EXTRA PARTS LYING AROUND SOME-WHERE...?
NEVER SAY THAT.
THAT'S IT, SIR-- YOU'RE STARTING TO THINK LIKE TAMIYA AND OTAKI!

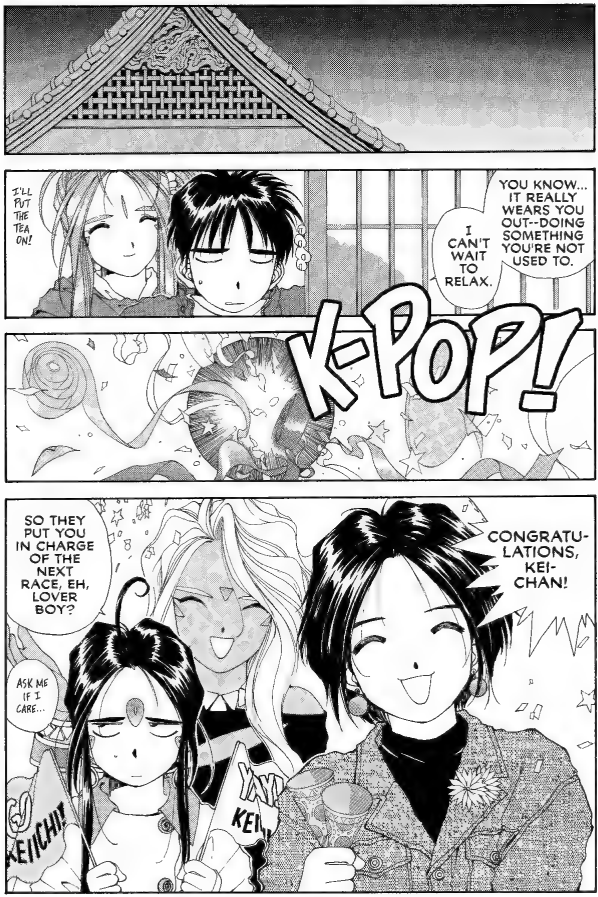
Buried Memories of Things Long Hidden Respond to My Call!
Float Now Upward from Depths of Mind...
...By This the Goddess Rune Come Forth!
NEKOMI
HMM ...!
YEAH, NOW THAT YOU *MENTION* IT...
NEKOMI
ONE OF MY BUDS CRASHED OUT LAST FALL.
TRASHED THE FRONT END, BUT HE'S GOT THE REAR SUSPENSION HANGING AROUND.
AND, *YEAH*...
...WASN'T THERE AN OLD KDX FORK AND TRIPLE-CLAMP UNDER THOSE BOXES IN THE WARE-HOUSE...?

WHOA... LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT EVERY-THING WE NEED...!
I THINK I SAW A SET OF EXPANSION CHAMBERS AT THE SALVAGE YARD...
I GOT SOME ALUMINUM HANDLE-BARS AT HOME...
THERE WAS A SET OF CARBS, TOO...
I GOT SOME PIPE...
SIR ...?
MAYBE IT'LL BE BETTER IF WE CAN'T ENTER THE RACE AFTER ALL...
...ALTHOUGH GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT KIND OF WEIRD BIKE WE CAN MAKE OUT OF THIS STUFF.
...OR INCREDI-BLY UN-SO!
I'M NOT SURE...
...IF I'M INCREDI-BLY LUCKY...
WE'RE IN THE RACE, SIR.
HOW'D YOU GET THEM TO DO IT?
WELL, ANY-WAY... THANKS, SORA!
I... I...
S-SIR...

...THEY MISTOOK ME FOR A JUNIOR-HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT!
DID THOSE SCUM AT N.I.T. MAKE YOU RUN THEIR ERRANDS? I MEAN, HOW OLD ARE YOU? TWELVE? WELL, OKAY-- BUT YOU TELL THEM FROM ME THEY BETTER NOT EXPLOIT KIDS ANYMORE...
DID THOSE SCUM AT HILL CLIMB JAPAN MAKE HER...
OH, SIR, IT WAS T-TERRI-BLE...
...huh ?!
SOB!


GEE, SIR! YOU ALWAYS KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY!
YEAH!
JUST THINK... THAT PURE, CHILDISH FACE OF YOURS GOT US INTO THE RACE, RIGHT?
AWW... DON'T CRY, SORA.

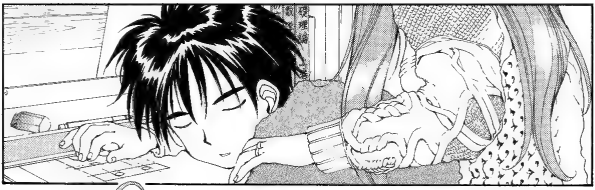



I'LL PUT THE TEA ON!
I CAN'T WAIT TO RELAX.
YOU KNOW... IT REALLY WEARS YOU OUT--DOING SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT USED TO.
K-POP!
SO THEY PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE NEXT RACE, EH, LOVER BOY?
ASK ME IF I CARE...
CONGRATULATIONS, KEI-CHAN!
KEICHI!
KEI!

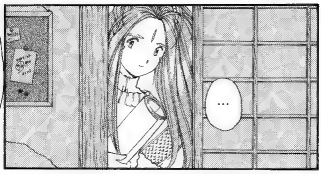
OH, COME ON! AT LEAST LET US DO *SOMETHING!*
UP ALL NIGHT...
...BECAUSE I'VE GOT TO DO UP BLUEPRINTS FOR THE FRAME MODS BY TOMORROW MORNING.
I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM SORA HASEGAWA!
HOW DID *YOU* FIND OUT ABOUT IT?
SO, LET'S *CELEBRATE! PARTY!*
GEAR HEAD *AND* MOTOR MOUTH.
HUH?! *WHY?!*
COUNT ME OUT.
COME ON-- I'M LIVING OFF CAMPUS AND PAYING MY OWN TUITION. I DON'T HAVE SPARE CASH.
WHY, ANYWAY?
OKAY, THEN.
GIVE ME MONEY.
OH, NO!
31 HQ RENT 40,000
2/4 UTILITIES 24,000 2,782 3721
5 GAS AND OIL 24,921 12,3
TIRES
I WENT THROUGH THE CLUB ACCOUNTS, AND WE'RE *SKINT.* WE HAVE EXACTLY 218 YEN LEFT.

HMM...
EVEN IF WE MAKE OUR OWN PARTS, WE STILL NEED TO BUY MATERIALS AND EXPEND-ABLES...
WHAT'S *THAT* SUP-POSED TO MEAN ...?
DON'T COUNT ON IT, THOUGH, BRO.
...*TO CELE-BRATE*.
I *MAY* BE ABLE TO DO SOME-THING...
YOU GOING HOME ...?

KEIICHI'S
SHOP
takka
takka



IT'S MY JOB TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T DO THAT.
WHEN KEIICHI GETS INTO A PROJECT, HE'LL WORK HIMSELF TO DEATH.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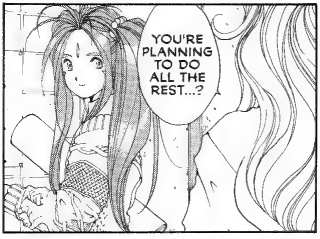
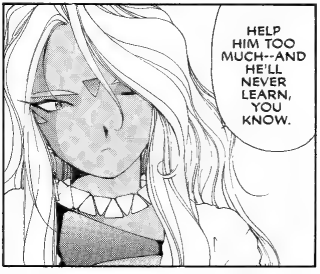
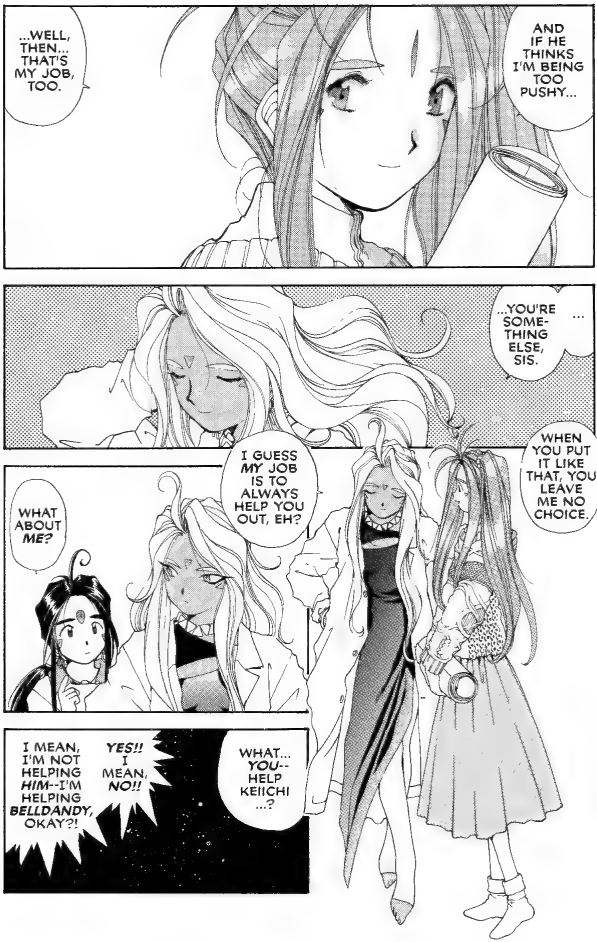

YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO ALL THE REST...?


HELP HIM TOO MUCH--AND HE'LL NEVER LEARN, YOU KNOW.


...WELL, THEN... THAT'S MY JOB, TOO.
AND IF HE THINKS I'M BEING TOO PUSHY...
...YOU'RE SOME-THING ELSE, SIS.
...
WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.
I GUESS *MY* JOB IS TO ALWAYS HELP YOU OUT, EH?
WHAT ABOUT *ME?*
WHAT... *YOU*-- HELP KEIICHI ...?
YES!! I MEAN, *NO!!*
I MEAN, I'M NOT HELPING *HIM*--I'M HELPING *BELLDANDY*, OKAY?!

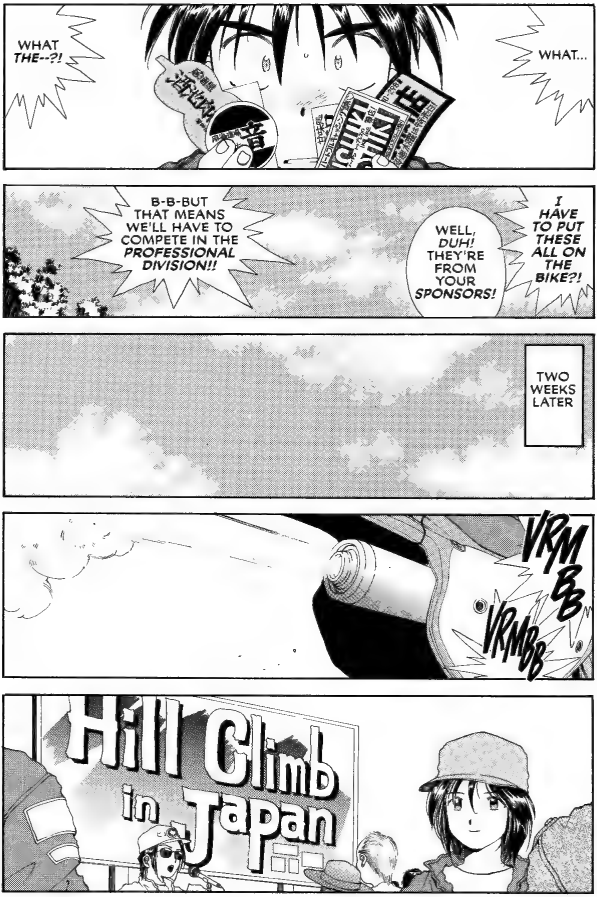
HOW THE HECK ...?
...THE WHOLE BIKE!
THE PLANS ...? THEY'RE... FINISHED!
HUH ...?
AND SO, THE NEXT MORNING...
KEI-ICHI?
OH, KEIICHI!
BUT...
...AND YOU'VE GOT EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY.
FORGIVE ME! I KNOW I SHOULDN'T HAVE...

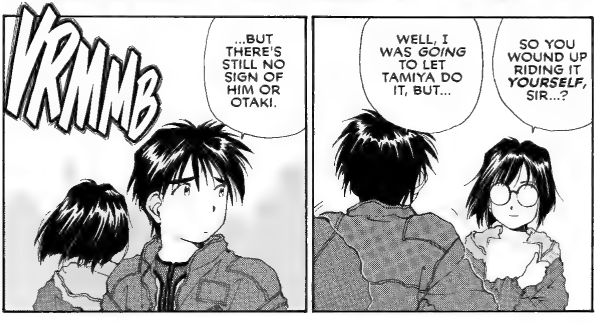
"ANGRY" ...?
WITH MY WONDER-FUL BELL-DANDY?
NO WAY!
IF I'M ANGRY, IT'S WITH *MYSELF*.
SORA REALLY HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.
HAH! SHE SHOULD HAVE HIT *ME* ON THE HEAD!
I WAS *STILL* TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF, EVEN IF IT KILLED ME.
NO, I'M NOT ANGRY WITH YOU, BELL-DANDY...
...IN FACT, I DON'T THINK I CAN FIND WORDS TO THANK YOU ENOUGH.
OH, KEIICHI...

THAT'S WHY...
...I LOVE YOU!

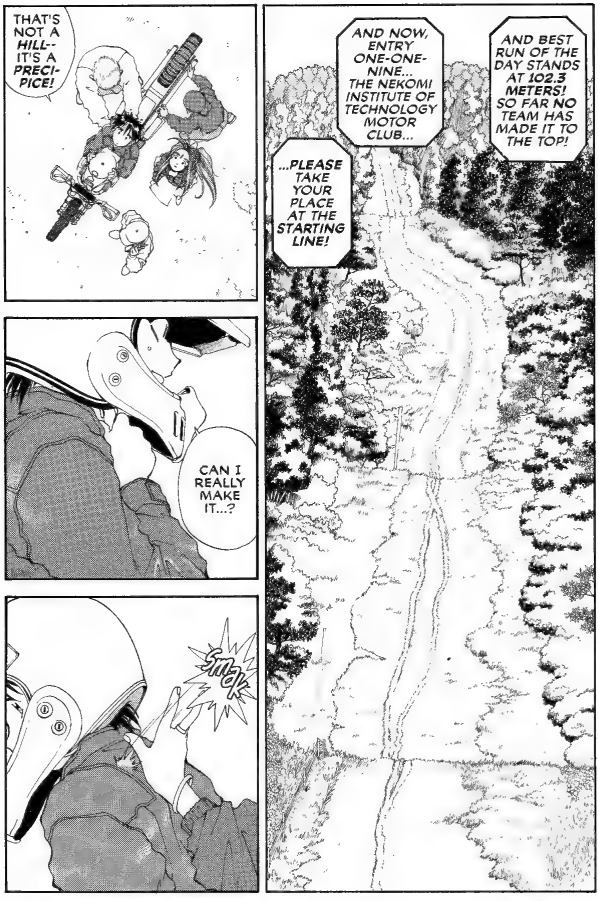
IT FITS PERFECTLY! (manly tears)
...WERE BETTER THAN EVEN BRAND-NEW FACTORY COMPONENTS.
THE PARTS WE MADE USING THE GODDESSES' BLUE-PRINTS...
HUH?
KEI-CHAN! KEI-CHAN!
CHECK IT OUT!
TAA-DAA!

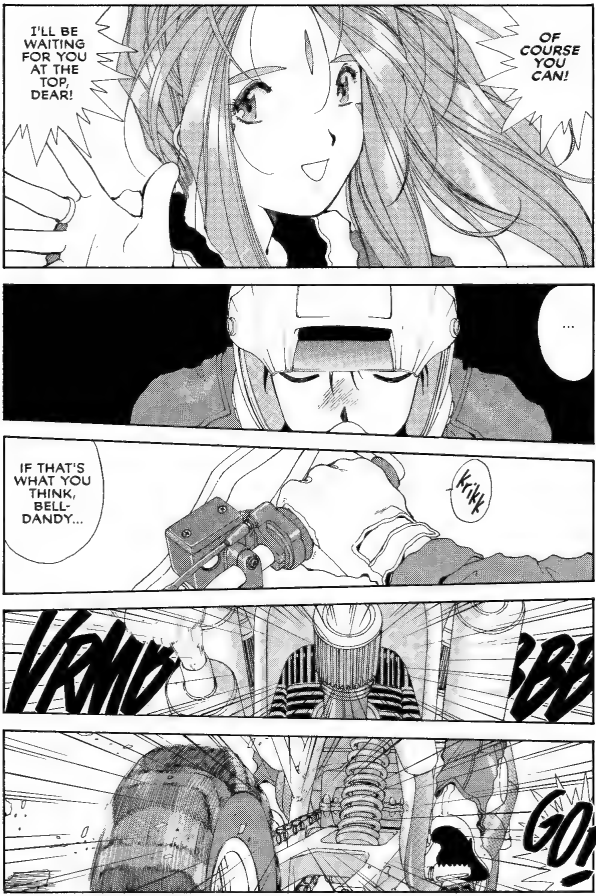
KEIICHI... YOU'RE TALKING TO YOURSELF AGAIN...
WHAT DID SHE...?
...TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN!!
SO DON'T WASTE IT, KIDDO!
THINK OF IT AS YOUR LITTLE SISTER'S EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR HER BIG BROTHER.
SO I TALKED THEM ALL INTO SPONSORING YOU.
...Y'KNOW, I'M PRETTY WELL KNOWN DOWN AT THE SHOPPING MALL.
HEH, HEH...
?
HERE YOU GO. STICK THESE ON!
HUH?
I ALMOST FORGOT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...
OH, YEAH!
MEGUMI... YOU'RE THE BEST LITTLE SISTER--

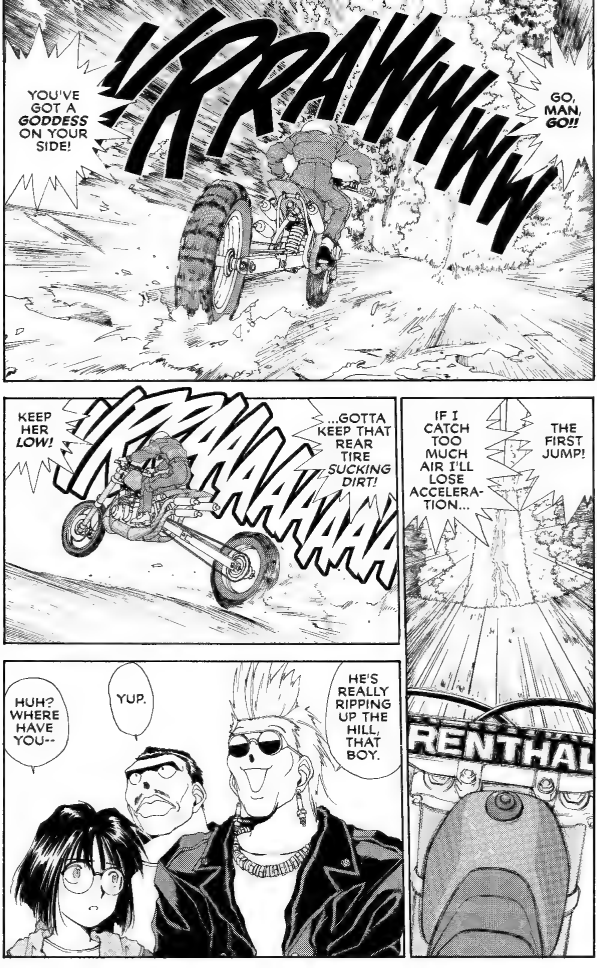

WHAT THE--?!
WHAT...
B-B-BUT THAT MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO COMPETE IN THE PROFESSIONAL DIVISION!!
WELL, DUH! THEY'RE FROM YOUR SPONSORS!
I HAVE TO PUT THESE ALL ON THE BIKE?!
TWO WEEKS LATER
VRMBB
VRMBB
Hill Climb in Japan


VRMMB
...BUT THERE'S STILL NO SIGN OF HIM OR OTAKI.
WELL, I WAS *GOING* TO LET TAMIYA DO IT, BUT...
SO YOU WOUND UP RIDING IT ***YOURSELF***, SIR...?

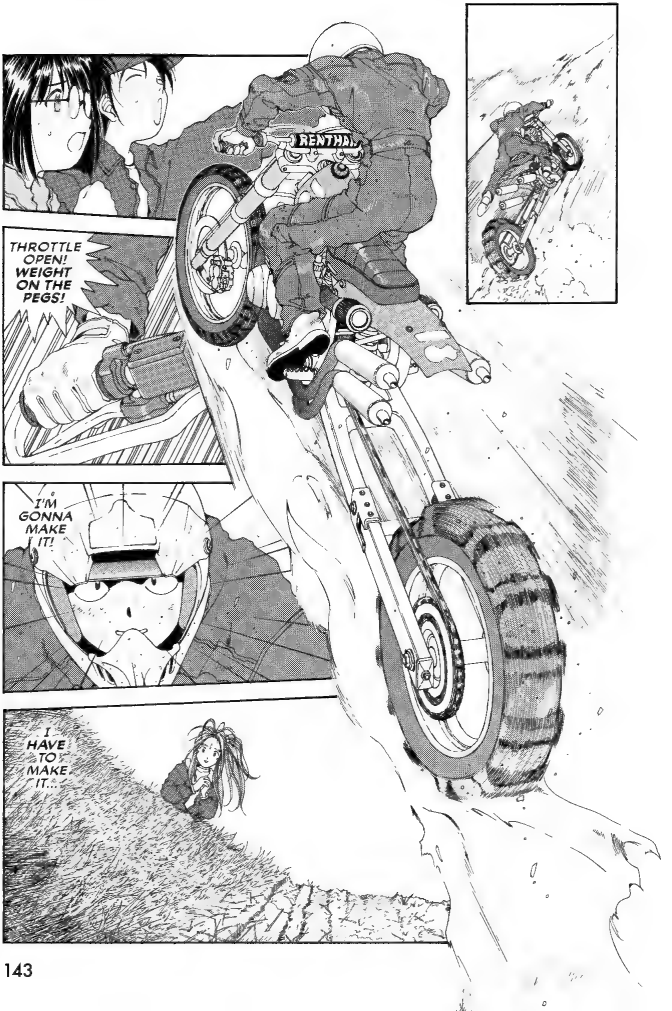
WHAM
VRAWWW
SKRASSH
WHUD
KRAK
L CLIMB
OFFICIAL
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS, SIR...?
YEP.
NOW DO YOU SEE WHY I WAS SO THRILLED?
BABA UNIVERSITY MOTOR-CYCLE CLUB... 52.5 METERS!


THAT'S NOT A HILL-- IT'S A PRECI-PICE!
AND NOW, ENTRY ONE-ONE-NINE... THE NEKOMI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MOTOR CLUB...
AND BEST RUN OF THE DAY STANDS AT 102.3 METERS! SO FAR NO TEAM HAS MADE IT TO THE TOP!
...PLEASE TAKE YOUR PLACE AT THE STARTING LINE!
CAN I REALLY MAKE IT...?
SMACK

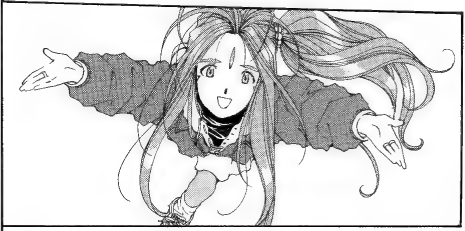

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE TOP, DEAR!
OF COURSE YOU CAN!
...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, BELL-DANDY...
KrikK
VROO
GO!

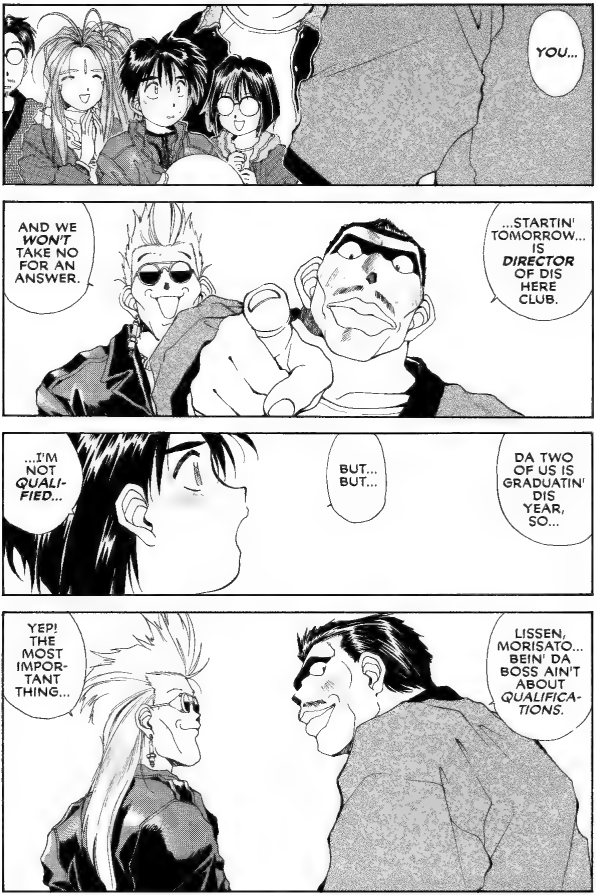

YOU'VE GOT A GODDESS ON YOUR SIDE!
URRAWWWW
GO, MAN, GO!!
KEEP HER LOW!
...GOTTA KEEP THAT REAR TIRE SUCKING DIRT!
KRAAAAAAAAA
IF I CATCH TOO MUCH AIR I'LL LOSE ACCELERA-TION...
THE FIRST JUMP!
RENTHAL
HUH? WHERE HAVE YOU--
YUP.
HE'S REALLY RIPPING UP THE HILL, THAT BOY.

YUP.
I'D SAY THIS *CLINCHES* IT, EH, TAMIYA?
THROTTLE OPEN FULL!
GOTTA KEEP MY BODY FOR-WARD!
GO, GO, *GO!!*
GO, KEIICHI, GO!


RENTHAL
THROTTLE OPEN! WEIGHT ON THE PEGS!
I'M GONNA MAKE IT!
I HAVE TO MAKE IT...

...WHERE A GODDESS IS WAITING FOR ME.



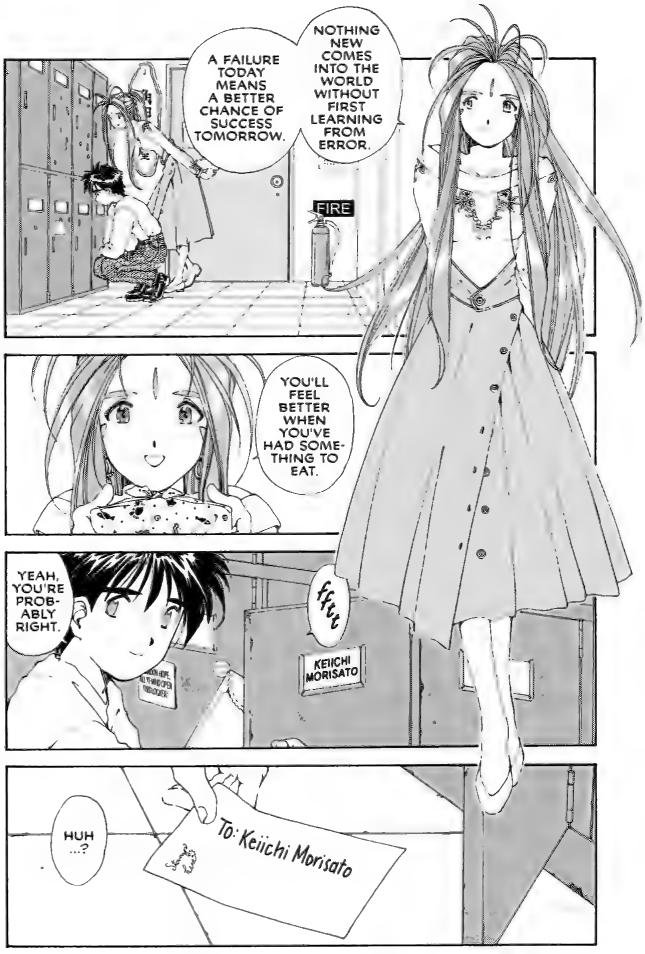

YOU...
...STARTIN' TOMORROW... IS *DIRECTOR* OF DIS HERE CLUB.
AND WE *WON'T* TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.
DA TWO OF US IS GRADUATIN' DIS YEAR, SO...
BUT... BUT...
...I'M NOT *QUALI-FIED*...
LISSEN, MORISATO... BEIN' DA BOSS AIN'T ABOUT *QUALIFICA-TIONS.*
YEP! THE MOST IMPOR-TANT THING...

...LEADER-SHIP!
IN OTHER WORDS...
...IS THE POWER TO MAKE PEOPLE WORK FOR, UH, WITH YOU!
BELL-DANDY SAYS THAT HAPPI-NESS IN LIFE...
OTAKI-SEMPAI...
TAMIYA-SEMPAI...
...DEPENDS ON HOW MANY TIMES YOU GET TO SAY "THANK YOU!" FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART.
THANK YOU!!
NOW I'VE GOT ALL THE RESPONSI-BILITY AND NONE OF THE POWER...
THEY DON'T MEAN BADLY...
YEAH! YOU'LL BE OUR PUPPET, KEIICHI!
OKAY, HERE'S HOW IT'S GONNA BE--ME AN' OTAKI IS STAYIN' ON FER GRADUATE SCHOOL, SO WE'S GONNA ESTABLISH A NEW SUPREME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF US TWO ABOVE TH' DIRECTOR.
BUT LET'S JUST PRETEND THIS ONE DIDN'T HAPPEN.

CHAPTER 57

Tainted God

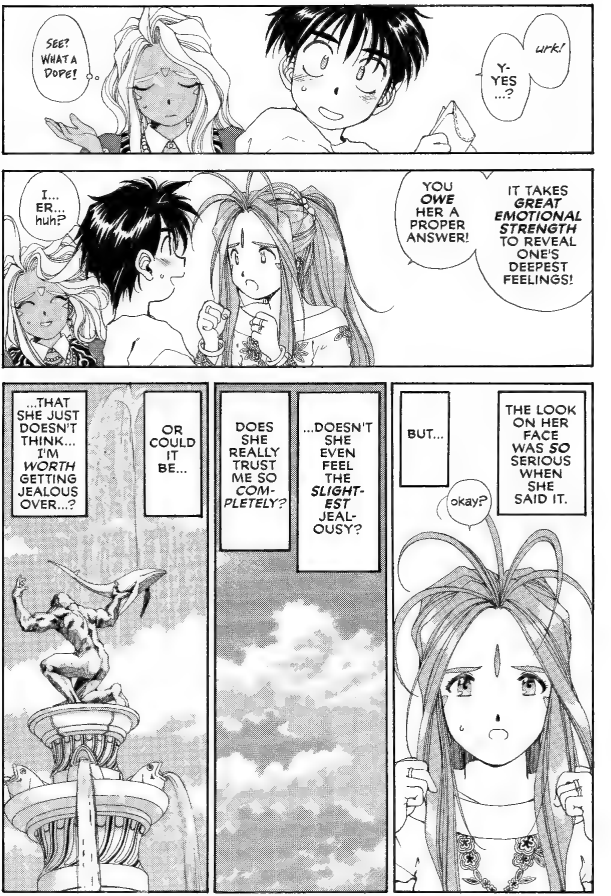
KEIICHI MORISATO
ANNOUNCEMENT: ALL STUDENTS OPEN THEIR LOCKERS!
ffft
tap tap
tap tap
角田研究室
KAKUTA LABS
DANGER HIGH VOLTAGE
TODAY'S EXPERIMENT MENU: CERAMIC SHOCK TESTING!
OKAY, WE'RE OFF TO GRAB SOME LUNCH!
IT SHOULDN'T BE COMING OUT SO BRITTLE.
KAKUTA LABS
TODAY'S EXPERIMENT MENU: CERAMIC SHOCK TESTING!
...I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO STABILIZE THE TEMPERATURE IN THE FURNACE.


A FAILURE TODAY MEANS A BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS TOMORROW.
NOTHING NEW COMES INTO THE WORLD WITHOUT FIRST LEARNING FROM ERROR.
FIRE
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER WHEN YOU'VE HAD SOMETHING TO EAT.
YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
ffuu
KEIICHI MORISATO
HUH ...?
To: Keiichi Morisato

...
...
Dear Keiichi,
Forgive me for sending you this letter out of the blue, but since since I first laid eyes upon you, I have found myself unable to speak to you. But...
"SHIHO SAKAKIBARA... FRESHMAN, ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT"...?
NEVER HEARD OF HER.
WHO...?
IT... IT'S...
But... Alas, I could never find the right words and each of those days ended in regret. And so today, I at last find the courage.
I want to tell you, my heart.
I want to tell you how I feel, in my own words.
And so...
I will be waiting in front of the fountain today until I see you.
And I will wait forever...
...I RECEIVED A LOVE LETTER!!
...I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY...

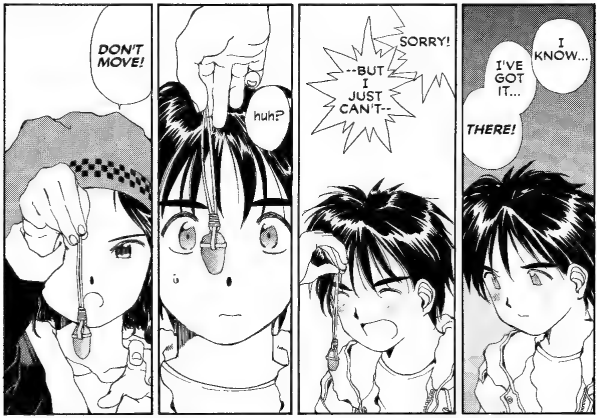
"EVER SINCE I FIRST LAID EYES UPON YOU...
IT'S N-N-N- NOTH-ING!
WHAT IS IT...?
I MEAN, I'VE WRITTEN PLENTY, BUT I NEVER DREAMED THAT SOME-DAY I'D ACTUALLY GET ONE!
OH, DEAR-- PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED.
FWAM
YAIEE!
KEIICHI...
...IMPRES-SIVE.
...A LOVE LETTER.
!?
OH, WOW...
"...I HAVE TRIED MANY TIMES TO SPEAK..."

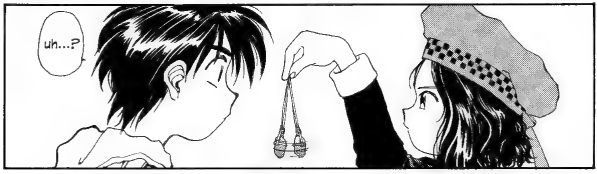
AND SO?
YOU GONNA MEET HER?
OF... OF COURSE NOT!!
OH, REALLY ...?
URD'S HAIR DIVINATION TECHNIQUE!
HMM... ACCORDING TO MY READING... SHE IS DEVASTATINGLY CUTE.
HMM...
WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?
HE'S ACTUALLY THINKING ABOUT IT...?!
KEIICHI ...?

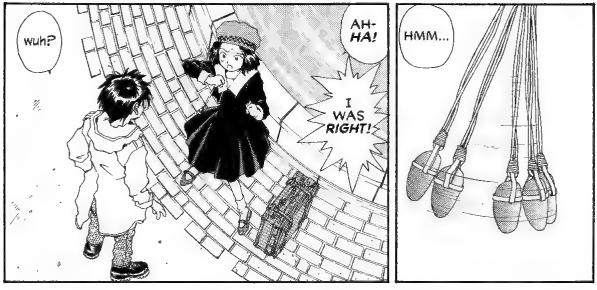

SEE? WHAT A DOPE!
Y-YES ...?
urk!
I... ER... huh?
YOU *OWE* HER A PROPER ANSWER!
IT TAKES *GREAT EMOTIONAL STRENGTH* TO REVEAL ONE'S DEEPEST FEELINGS!
...THAT SHE JUST DOESN'T THINK... I'M *WORTH* GETTING JEALOUS OVER...?
OR COULD IT BE...
DOES SHE REALLY TRUST ME SO *COMPLETELY*?
...DOESN'T SHE EVEN FEEL THE *SLIGHTEST* JEALOUSY?
BUT...
okay?
THE LOOK ON HER FACE WAS *SO* SERIOUS WHEN SHE SAID IT.

IS IT *FUN* PICKING ON ME, URD?
YOU'RE GONNA TURN HER DOWN? REALLY? AH, WHAT A *WASTE!*
WELL, YEAH... A LITTLE.
WOW.. THAT GIRL IS ***DEVASTAT-INGLY*** CUTE...
DON'T SEE ANYBODY *ELSE,* THOUGH...
NAW... *CAN'T* BE HER.

OH!
UM... yeah?
KEIICHI MORISATO ...?!
I-I'M SO HAPPY... YOU ACTUALLY CAME!
WAIT... REAL-LY... THIS BABE ?!
OH, NO...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW IF I CAN RESIST THAT SMILE...SO INNOCENT... SO FREE OF SECRET AGENDAS...
NOW THEN...


DON'T MOVE!
huh?
SORRY!
--BUT I JUST CAN'T--
I KNOW...
I'VE GOT IT...
THERE!


uh...?


wuh?
AH-HA!
I WAS RIGHT!
HMM...

YOU'RE EMITTING THE PSYCHIC VIBRATIONS OF AN UNHUMAN BEING!
YOU HAVE BEEN POSSESSED!

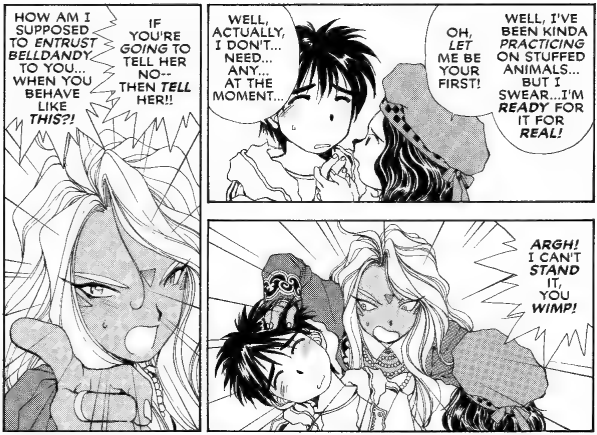
NO. NO WAY! HAS THE SECRET OF THE GODDESSES FINALLY GOTTEN OUT...?!
GASP

FEAR NOT!
"EVIL SPIRITS"...?
UM... EXCUSE ME?

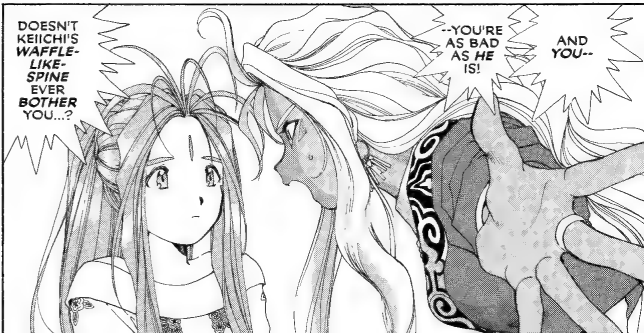
WHAT ARE YOU... SOME KIND OF EXORCIST...?
I SHALL CLEANSE YOU! HALLELUJAH!

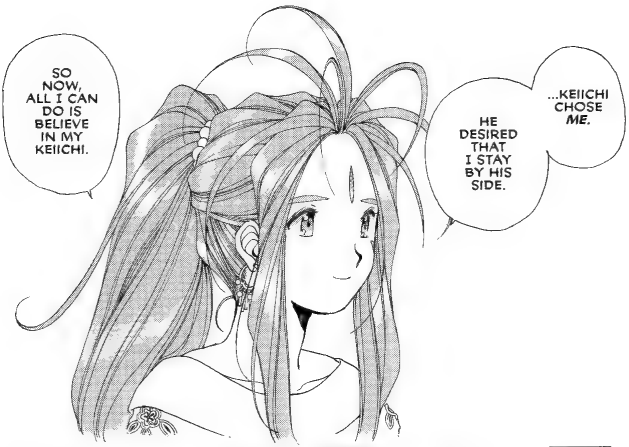
"AS A HOBBY"...?
EXACTLY! I'VE BEEN DOING IT AS A HOBBY... FOR TWO WHOLE YEARS NOW.

...THOSE EVIL SPIRITS WITHIN YOU!
...DRIVE OUT...
BUT DON'T WORRY... BY MY OWN POWER, I SHALL...


HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ENTRUST BELLDANDY TO YOU... WHEN YOU BEHAVE LIKE THIS?!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL HER NO-- THEN TELL HER!!
WELL, ACTUALLY, I DON'T... NEED... ANY... AT THE MOMENT...
OH, LET ME BE YOUR FIRST!
WELL, I'VE BEEN KINDA PRACTICING ON STUFFED ANIMALS... BUT I SWEAR...I'M READY FOR IT FOR REAL!
ARGH! I CAN'T STAND IT, YOU WIMP!

?
?
I WAS JUST KIDDING, OKAY?! REALLY!
URD, WEREN'T YOU KINDA SAYING THE OPPOSITE BEFORE...?


DOESN'T KEIICHI'S WAFFLE-LIKE-SPINE EVER BOTHER YOU...?
--YOU'RE AS BAD AS HE IS!
AND YOU--

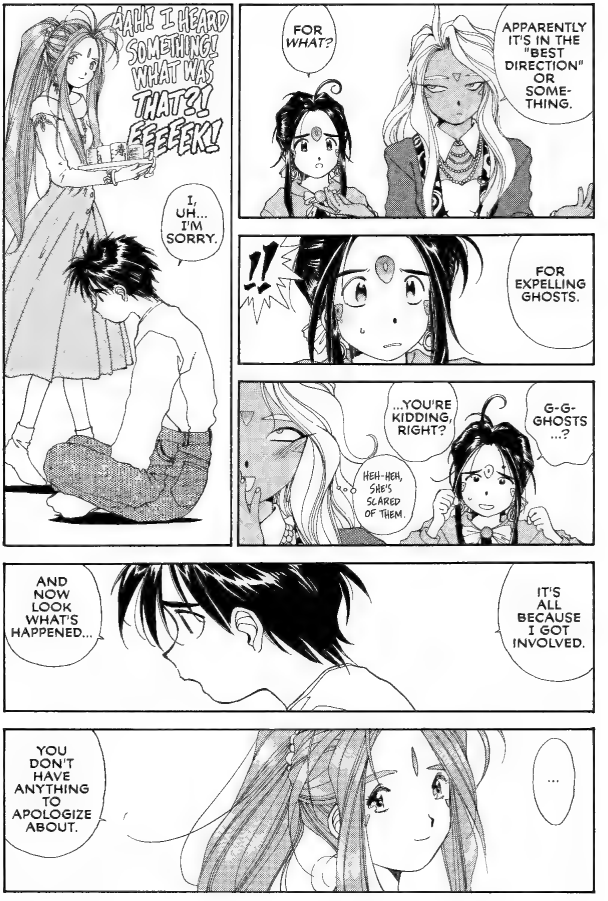

SO NOW, ALL I CAN DO IS BELIEVE IN MY KEIICHI.
HE DESIRED THAT I STAY BY HIS SIDE.
...KEIICHI CHOSE *ME*.

EXCUSE ME? I'M SORRY TO INTRUDE WHEN YOU'RE OTHERWISE ENGAGED, BUT...
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT...?
SOME-TIMES I WONDER WHY I EVEN BOTHER... ...

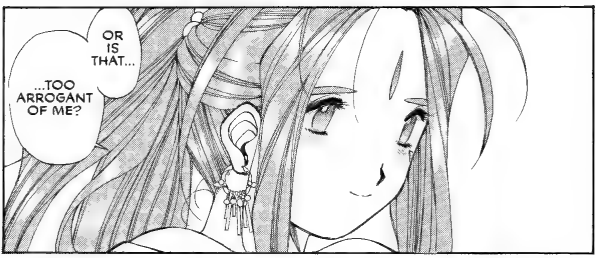
IN ORDER TO EXORCISE MISTER MORISATO'S EVIL SPIRITS, I'LL BE STAYING AT YOUR HOUSE TONIGHT!

OOMPH!

AND NOW...
JUST WAIT A SECOND, HERE!
SO LET'S NOT WASTE ANY TIME.
YOU GUYS ARE ALL NUTS-- I GIVE UP!
WHA--?!
AND HOW COME SHE HAS TO STAY IN MY ROOM ?!
YOU GU-Y-Y-Y-S! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER!
...WHILE I PREPARE.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME...
BUT.
WHAM


AAH! I HEARD SOMETHING! WHAT WAS THAT?! EEEEEK!
I, UH... I'M SORRY.
FOR WHAT?
APPARENTLY IT'S IN THE "BEST DIRECTION" OR SOMETHING.
!?
FOR EXPELLING GHOSTS.
G-G-GHOSTS ...?
...YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
HEH-HEH, SHE'S SCARED OF THEM.
AND NOW LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED...
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I GOT INVOLVED.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO APOLOGIZE ABOUT.
...

...I WAS AFRAID SHE WAS GOING TO GET HURT.
IF THAT GIRL REALLY HAD BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU...
I WAS JUST A LITTLE WORRIED, THOUGH...


OR IS THAT...
...TOO ARROGANT OF ME?

THANKS FOR RUINING THE MOOD, URD.
GHOSTS LIVE UNDER MY BED!! WAAH! I'M SCARED!!

NOT AT ALL--
...

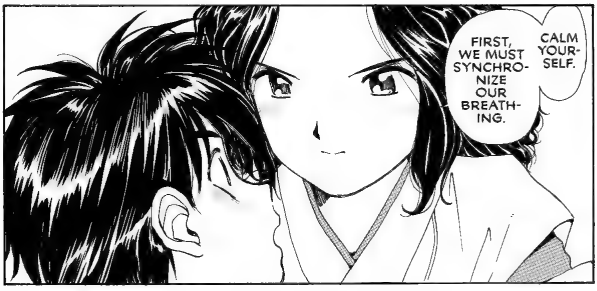
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

WOW... YOU'RE EVEN DRESSED AS A SHRINE MAIDEN!

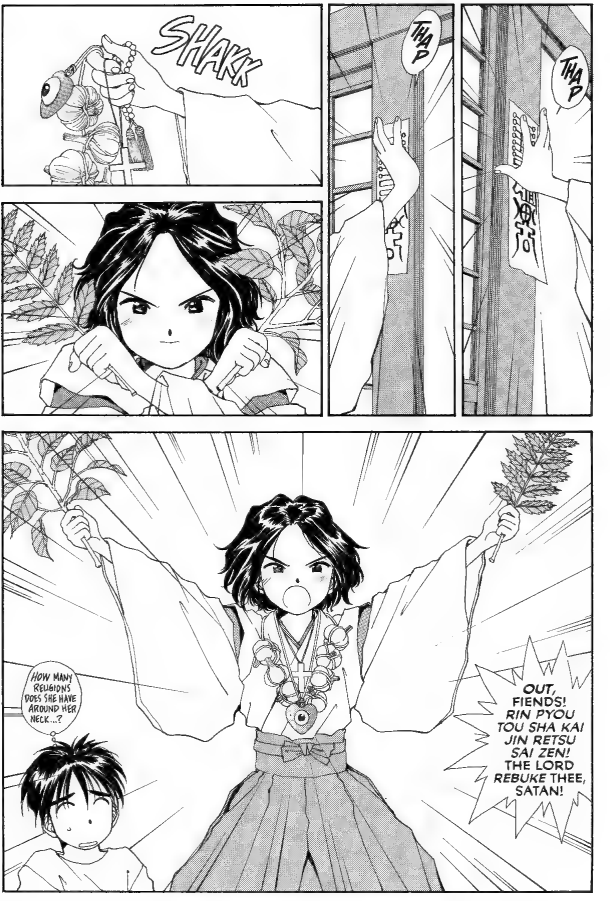
AND SO... LET US BEGIN.

tee-hee DO YOU LIKE MY MIKO OUTFIT? I MADE IT MYSELF.
AND NOW...

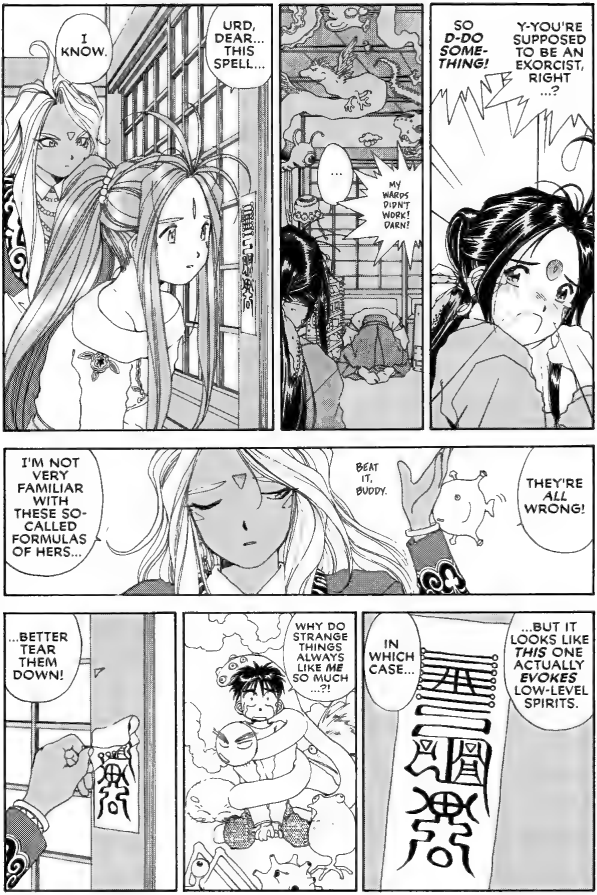
STOP. RIGHT. TH-THERE.
uh...
....

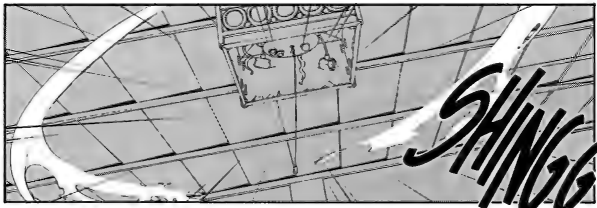

FIRST, WE MUST SYNCHRO-NIZE OUR BREATH-ING.
CALM YOUR-SELF.

IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY...?
Hff
Haa
Hff
Haa
Hff
Haa
WHAT A RACKET..
KYAAA!
P-POLTERGEIST PHENOMENA!
SPRAK


SHAKK
THAP
THAP
PSSD
OUT, FIENDS! RIN PYOU TOU SHA KAI JIN RETSU SAI ZEN! THE LORD REBUKE THEE, SATAN!
HOW MANY RELIGIONS DOES SHE HAVE AROUND HER NECK...?

?!
HUH?
!!
KYAAAAAAA!


I KNOW.
URD, DEAR... THIS SPELL...
...
MY WARDS DIDN'T WORK! DARN!
SO D-DO SOME-THING!
Y-YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AN EXORCIST, RIGHT ...?
I'M NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THESE SO-CALLED FORMULAS OF HERS...
BEAT IT, BUDDY.
THEY'RE ALL WRONG!
...BETTER TEAR THEM DOWN!
WHY DO STRANGE THINGS ALWAYS LIKE ME SO MUCH ...?!
IN WHICH CASE...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THIS ONE ACTUALLY EVOKES LOW-LEVEL SPIRITS.


SHINGG

WHA--?
HUH?

I...
I...
OH, HEY-- THEY JUST TOOK A MOMENT TO KICK IN!

?

THEY'RE... GONE?

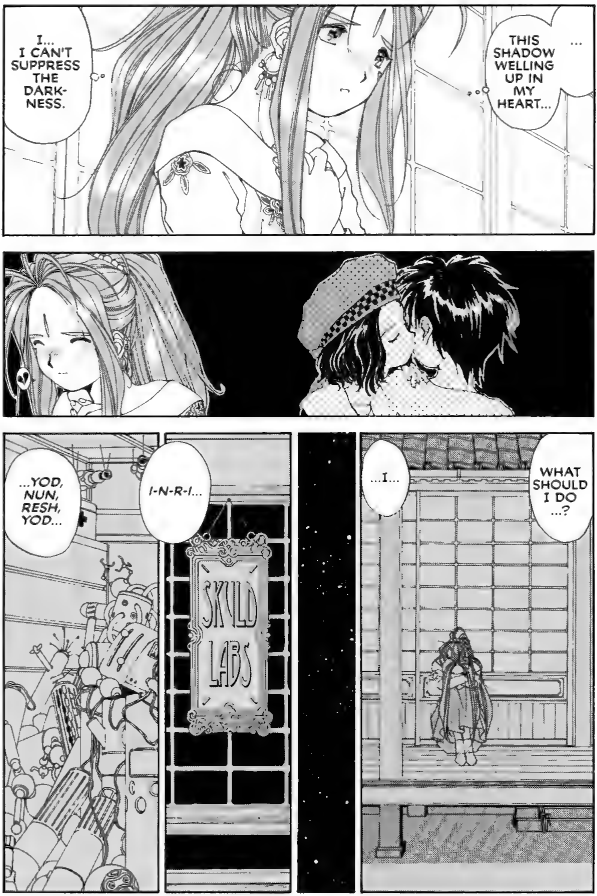
I HAVE THE GIFT!!
YEAH, RIGHT!
WELL THEN. THAT'S THAT.
MORI-SATO...
NOW, KULD!
DON'T LET THE DOOR HIT YOU ON THE WAY OUT!
...THE *VERY FIRST* PERSON TO EVER GO ALONG WITH MY HOBBY.
...YOU'RE THE FIRST...
THANK YOU.

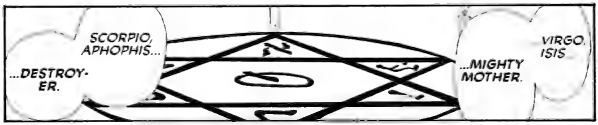
...THERE IS MORE TO YOU THAN MEETS THE EYE.
MMM...
I HAD TO SAY YES.
WELL, UH... IT WAS JUST THAT YOU LOOKED SO... SERIOUS, Y'KNOW?

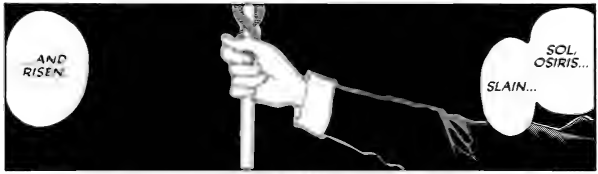
SPAKK
HEY--
SPAKK
THIS...
THIS IS...
EEK! WAAH !!
BRRINGGG
BRRINGGG
BONGG
BONGG
BONGG
BONGG
GLEBBLE
SPAK
KBOW

WHAM
KSSH
OKAY... I'M GETTING A LITTLE SCARED.
...A CHALLENGE TO ME, FROM THE SPIRITS!
NOPE.
IS THERE REALLY... A GHOST IN THE HOUSE?
WH... WHOA!
YOU DON'T KNOW?
WHAT? WHY?
IT'S BELL-DANDY'S POWER... OVER-FLOWING HER.
FROM JEALOUSY.
SHE HASN'T EVEN NOTICED IT HERSELF, YET...

...BUT IT ISN'T ALWAYS *PRETTY.*
FALLING IN LOVE IS *BEAUTI-FUL...*
...*"NOT LIKE THAT,"* YOU WANT TO SAY?
KYAAA! HE'S SHORTED OUT!
BANPEI! SAVE ME!
NO WAY! BELL-DANDY'S NOT... SHE'S NOT...
MY SISTER'S NOT A *DOLL,* KEIICHI.
SHE HAS *EMOTIONS...* INCLUDING *THAT* ONE.
...SHE'S JUST TRYING TO WITH-DRAW.
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER TO HERSELF NOW...
AND IF SHE DOES THAT MUCH LONG-ER...
...


I... I CAN'T SUPPRESS THE DARK-NESS.
THIS SHADOW WELLING UP IN MY HEART...
...
...YOD, NUN, RESH, YOD...
I-N-R-I...
SKULD LABS
...I...
WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?


SCORPIO, APHOPHIS...
...DESTROY-ER.
VIRGO, ISIS
...MIGHTY MOTHER.


AND RISEN
SOL, OSIRIS...
SLAIN...

...I-A-O
ISIS, APHOPHIS, OSIRIS...

...WHAT IS IT?
...
THE REAL QUESTION IS...
BEATS ME... I DON'T RECOGNIZE THESE INVOCATIONS AT ALL.
GEE, URD.. DO YOU THINK SHE'LL SUMMON SOME WEIRD CRITTERS AGAIN?
er
...IT'S NOTHING.
WELL, HECK... SHE LOOKS ABOUT THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
THOUGH MAYBE SHE'S A BIT PALE...? OR IS THAT JUST THE LIGHT...?
Shingg
ARARITA!
אראריתא

WHOOMPH
--PROTECTOR OF HUMANITY AGAINST EVIL!
I DID IT! I'VE EVOKED KUNDALI--
FEAR YE THIS NAME...
SHSSS
I... AM!
...DREAD WATCHDOG OF NIBELHEIM, THE LAND OF THE DEAD!
THIS NAME OF GARM...

EEK!
GACK! WHY IS GARM HERE?!
YE WHO HATH EVOKED ME-- SPEAK THE PURPOSE OF YOUR CALL!
...
...YOU'RE NOT WHO I WANTED.
BAD DOGGIE!
YOU IDIOT!! DON'T--
WHAT SAY YE?
THOU CALLEST FORTH GARM FOR NAUGHT ?!
THIS CRIME...
...BE WORTHY OF A THOUSAND DEATHS!

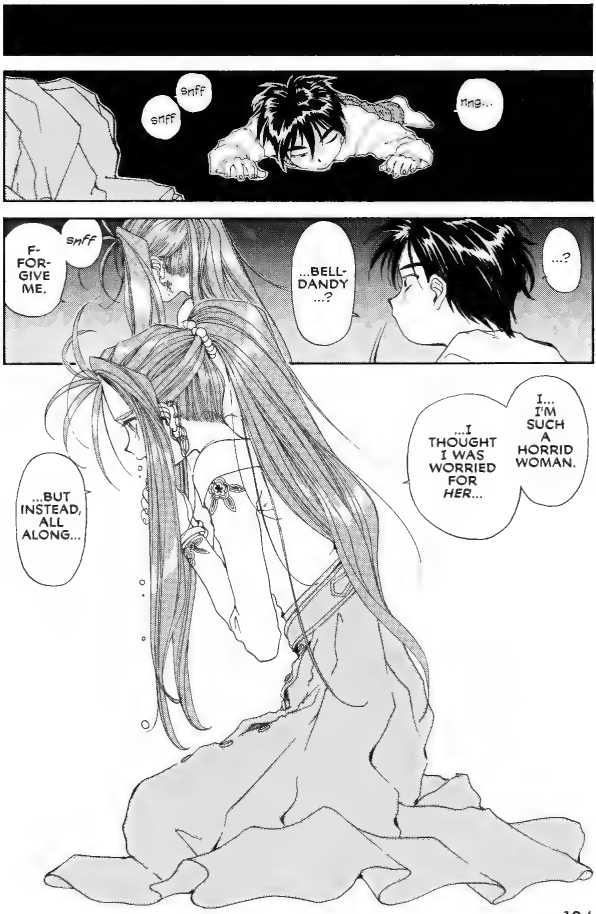
WHAM

QUICKLY! RUN AN *EVICTION ROUTINE!*
ANTI-DEMON PROGRAMS WON'T TOUCH GARM!
I DON'T KNOW THESE FORMULAS EITHER!
THEN MODIFY IT INTO AN ANTI-DEMON PROGRAM!
SHE DREW IT WITH A PERMANENT MARKER... IT WON'T COME OFF!
QUICK, WHILE YOU CAN! ERASE THE HEXAGRAM!
EEK!
BELL-DANDY!

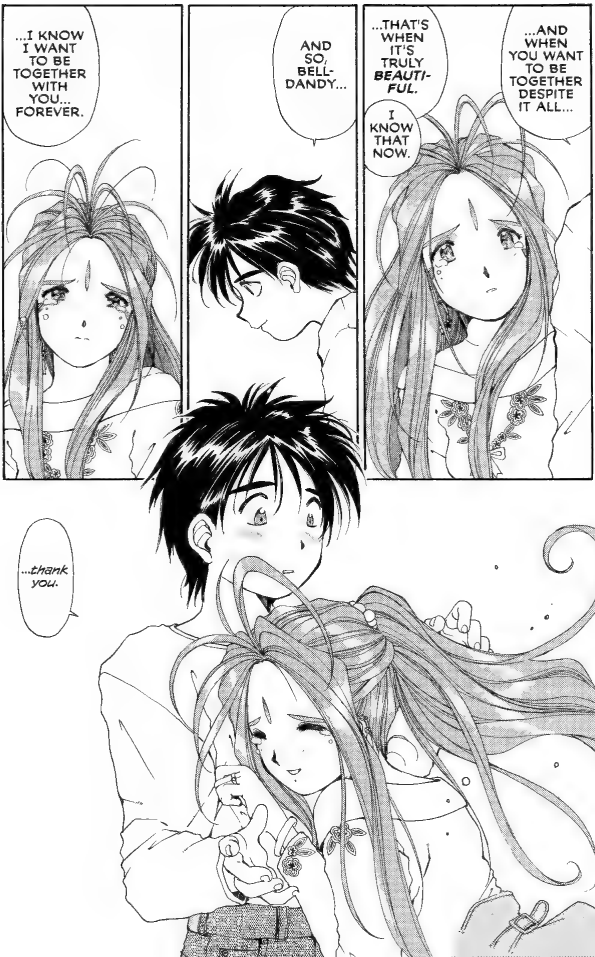
GURF !!
VMMM
YIPE!
I'VE GOT IT!
THE SEAL IN BELL-DANDY'S EARRING THAT LIMITS HER POWER ON EARTH...
...IT'S WEAKENED BY HER JEALOUSY!
RE-MOTE...

MY HANDS... I SWEAR THEY'RE MOVING OF THEIR OWN ACCORD...
...CON-TROL!
?!
...BODY...
HUH? HEY!

I UNDER-STAND NOW.
I WAS AFRAID.
ME...
ARUUU!!


sniff
sniff
mng...
F-FOR-GIVE ME.
sniff
...BELL-DANDY ...?
...?
...I THOUGHT I WAS WORRIED FOR *HER*...
I... I'M SUCH A HORRID WOMAN.
...BUT INSTEAD, ALL ALONG...

...EVEN THOUGH I *SAID* I TRUSTED YOU.
I WAS JUST AFRAID I WOULD LOSE MY KEIICHI...
N-NO.
KEIICHI, HOW YOU MUST DESPISE ME...
...TEARS...
...LAUGH-TER...
THERE'S GOING TO BE ANGER...
SHE TOLD ME THAT FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE WASN'T ALWAYS GOING TO BE PRETTY.
BUT YOU KNOW, URD TOLD ME SOME-THING.
I'M JUST TAKING YOUR TRUST FOR GRANTED.
YOU'RE WRONG... *I'M* SORRY.


...AND WHEN YOU WANT TO BE TOGETHER DESPITE IT ALL...
...THAT'S WHEN IT'S TRULY BEAUTI-FUL.
I KNOW THAT NOW.
AND SO, BELL-DANDY...
...I KNOW I WANT TO BE TOGETHER WITH YOU... FOREVER.
...thank you.

SHEESH... THERE THEY GO AGAIN.
OOH...
OOH...
UH...
HEY?!
THAT BIG DOGGIE... THING'S... GONE!
I HAVE THE POWER!
I... I DID IT!
YET AGAIN, MY GIFTS PREVAIL!
...CALLING FORTH GARM TAKES... A KIND OF GIFT...I GUESS...
WELL, EVEN IF IT WAS A MISTAKE...
SOON AFTER, SHE WENT TO WORK AS A PROFES-SIONAL SPIRITUALIST AROUND CAMPUS.
WAIT! YOUR SHADOW... IT LOOKS STRANGE!
EXIT
BUT, FORTU-NATELY, HER GIFT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A LUCKY (?) FLUKE...

THE ADVENTURES OF MINI-URD

NINJA-FORTIFIED

WARNING: EXCESSIVE SUBDIVISION CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

IS THE MISO SOUP IN *YOUR* HOUSE SAFE?

TONIGHT WE'RE WATCHING *MY* FAVORITE SHOW ON TV, UNDER-STAND?
DON'T TELL ME YOU NINJA SPIRITS HAVE BEEN HIDING HERE ALL THIS TIME ...?
VERILY.
HMPH... PLANNING TO CALL A *VOTE* AGAIN, ARE YOU...?
I'M BOILING MAD!
THE GUY IN THE TEAPOT REALLY HAD IT TOUGH.
IN THE SALT.
IN THE MISO.
WE DO! WE DO!!
WHO WANTS TO WATCH *HOLMES* ...?!
HEY!
BUT ONE OF OUR COMPAN-IONS IS MISSING--
OKAY ?!
NEXT TIME I WON'T ARGUE-- SO *PLEASE* STOP DOING THAT!
LET ME GUESS... IS THIS HIM...?
umm...
urk!

▲ SUBDIVIDED INTO TOO MANY COPIES...

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OH MY GODDESS! Vol. 9
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We've been seeing a lot of Urd lately (in fact, Keiichi got to see her in a way granted few mortals in Vol. 8) so perhaps the new fan art we've received should be no surprise. The artist, William Levy, tells us below:

Dear *OMG* staff,

Really enjoying the new format; can't wait to see how the latest cliffhanger turns out. I'm also enjoying learning more about the extended family. Enclosed is a piece I drew based on *OMG*; Urd, who protects my laptop from malicious influences. Works so far, anyway.

Better than any spyware: Goddessware!

Keep up the good work,
William Levy
Louisville, KY
(via e-mail)

That piece, of course, is just on the next page over! When you combine her skill at programming with her extreme nosiness, Urd is indeed the divine embodiment of spyware—if you remember back in Vol. 2, her very first conversation with Bell and Keiichi was devoted to a surveillance report on their relationship! But if you don't mind my saying so, you've probably chosen exactly the wrong volume to reveal you're a man with an interest in Urd. Buggy bugs on the march, is what I'm trying to say. Buggy bugs . . .

Just kidding. Don't be afraid of some long-eared manga bard casting *Creeping Doom* upon you—everyone, keep sending in your art and letters! And the reason you shouldn't be afraid, of course, is that bards can't cast druid spells that high a level. At least, I think they can't. I'd ask Gombos, but he's in Japan right now.

—CGH

WILLIAM LEVY

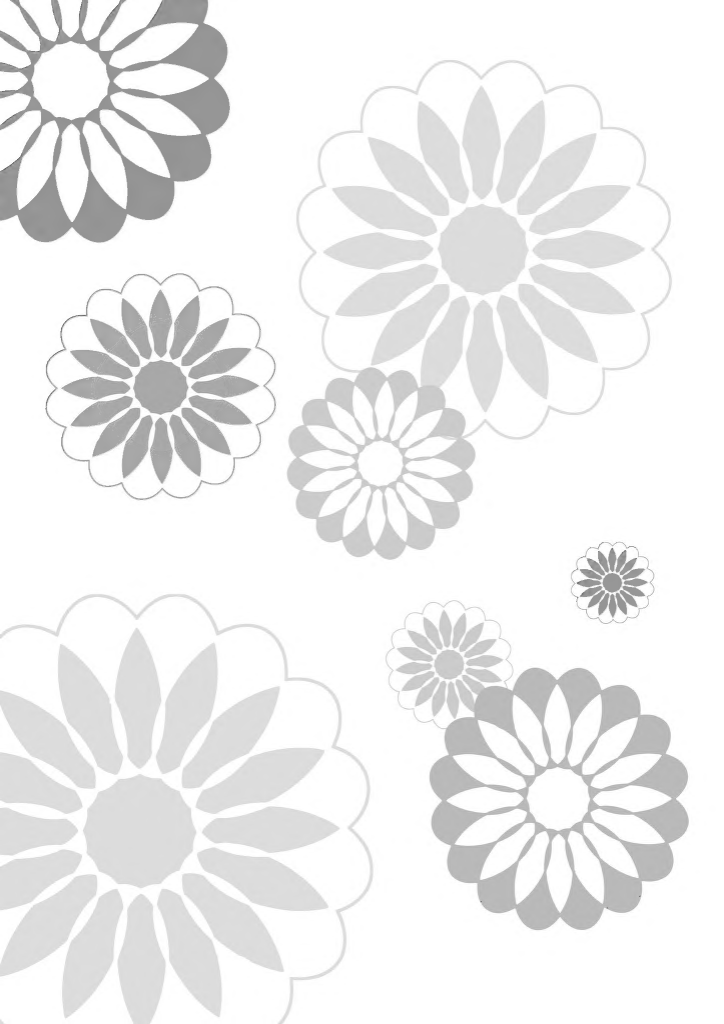
Creator Kosuke Fujishima in 1993!

His message to fans in the original Japanese *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 9:

Hey, everyone, it's been a while! It's me yet again, with a new machine that I'm here to introduce—so just stick with me here. This time I'm showing off the Japan Express Hikari-go, capable of reaching speeds of over 250 km/h. For some reason, there's something that strikes me as really cute about its body. It gets very good fuel economy, and it only costs 100 yen per ride. Admittedly it has a label saying, "Adults, Please Don't Ride This," but I've never been much for the fine print. Next time, I'll show you the private helicopter that I bought.

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right-to-left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^



MANGA/HUMOR

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 9

WHEN URD AND SKULD ARE CALLED back to the heavenly realm for remedial training, Belldandy and Keiichi are alone at last! But two things are going to complicate their getting closer as man and woman—Belldandy has come down with a mysterious illness, and, thanks to fooling with Urd's medicine to try and cure her, Keiichi isn't a man anymore—*he's* a woman!

Dark Horse's most-requested classic manga is the inspiration for the new anime TV series! Plus four pages of color, more *Mini-Goddess* strips, a message from creator Kosuke Fujishima, and your fan art and letters!

DARK HORSE MANGA
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